FIRST IN THE FIELD

# Offshore

Who Will Drill The MOHOLE?
See Page 13

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JULY, 1959

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Power—2200 h.p. diesel
twin screw

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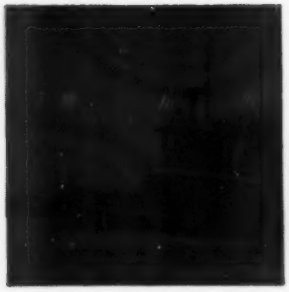
Beam—27′ 6″
Power—1700 h.p. diesel

**Tug WM. S. SMITH**
Length—144′
Beam—32′ 8″
Power—1850 h.p. steam

**Tug OCEAN PRINCE**
Length—123′
Beam—30′
Power—1400 h.p. diesel

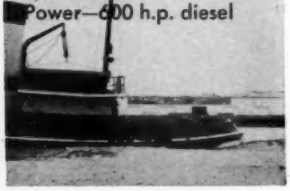
**Tug SANDRA**
Length—92′
Beam—25′
Power—1200 h.p. diesel

**Tugs PORT ALLEN and PORT HUDSON**
Length—93′
Beam—25′
Power—1000 h.p. diesel



**Tug ORLEANS**
Length—81′
Beam—24′
Power—750 h.p. diesel

**Tug LILLIAN**
Length—76′
Beam—2[illegible]′
Power—600 h.p. diesel



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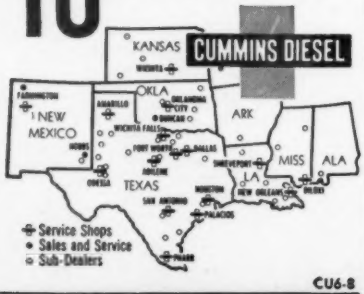


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Way offshore . . .

## With the Publisher

The offshore lease map that you'll find in this issue—a 4-color dilly of the east half of Louisiana, and jam-packed with information—will, we hope, prove useful for more than just wrapping your lunch in on your way out to a deep-sea rig.

We delayed the map to get complete information on Louisiana's last offshore lease sale—the biggest un' yet—and if nothing else, you'll find it helpful to keep from getting your fish hooks snarled on undersea pipelines.

---

Orville Scott, who has been editing **Offshore** for a long, long time, finally departed that august (?) post to take another position. He is a serious-minded young man, and wants to dedicate the remainder of his life to church work.

While we think this is commendable, it has surely left yours truly in a pickle. Until we find someone like Orville capable of writing about things both marine and oil, the acting editor of **Offshore** is—guess who.

Yep, and it's working our tail to a frazzle. Do you find errors in this issue, and feel like bawling somebody out, just think of a dour character running around with a hurried, harried expression, and with his shirt-tails out and flapping, and you'll probably just bawl out a handy roustabout (who'll probably know more about what he's doing, anyway!) instead of us.

---

But hard work never hurt a body —at least, the folks who don't work very hard tell you that. So we hope to be caught up soon, and maybe bum a fishing trip off Jack Casey or Red Shibley or somebody like that. Which means we've got a big pile of paperwork to plow through before we . . .

See you next month!

**Long John Latham**


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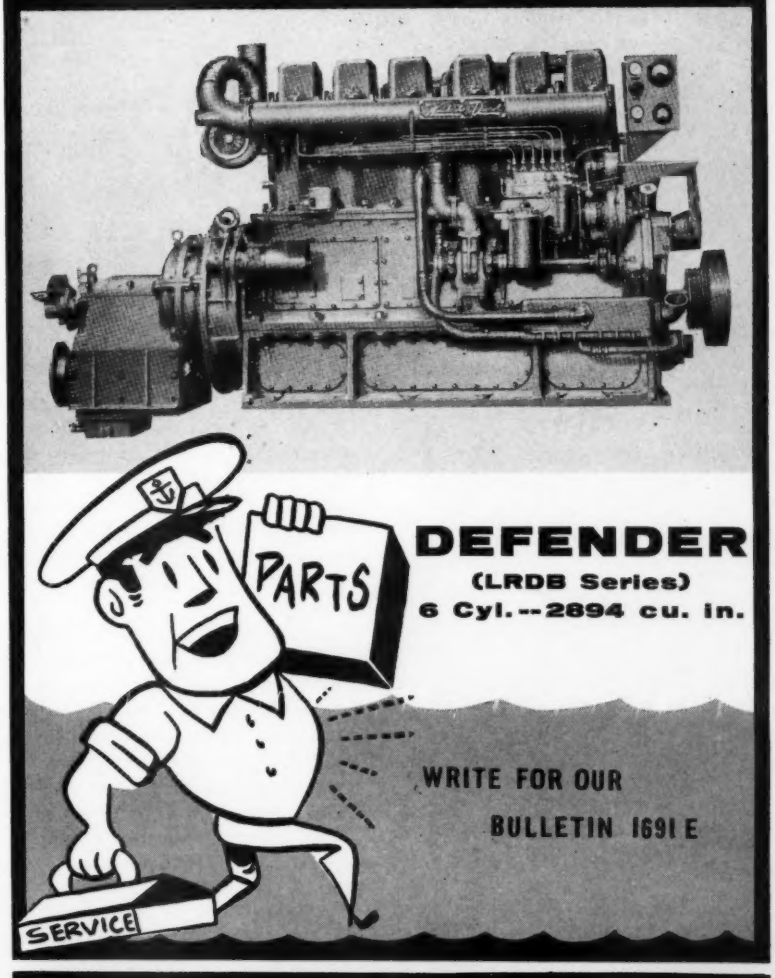


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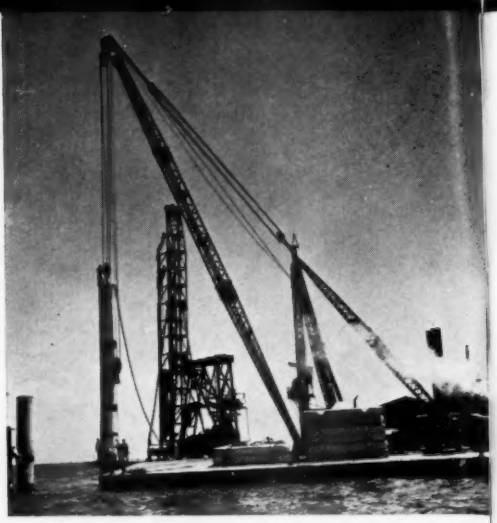

**PILE DRIVING:** On Lake Maricaibo, Venezuela. AMERICAN Stiffleg Derrick.

**ERECTION:** Derrick barge assembles offshore platform. AMERICAN Revolver Crane.

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# Rough Voyage For A Marine Rig

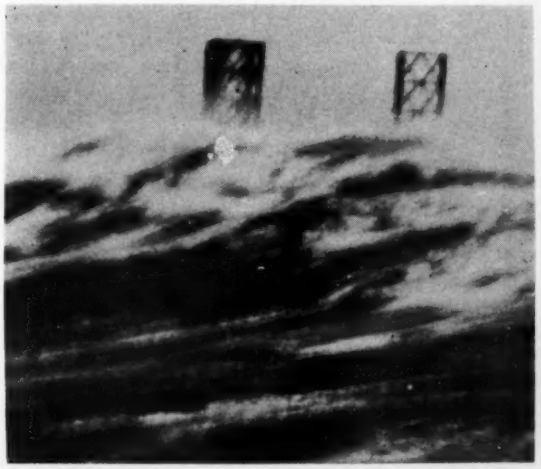
## Italian platform encounters 75-ft. seas on tow to Mediterranean

In the dramatic photograph above, the Italian mobile platform **Scarabeo** heels to starboard and bobs like a cork on rough seas encountered during a 7,000-mile tow from Vicksburg, Miss. to its first drillsite off the Sicilian coast in the Mediterranean.

A short time later, winds whipped up mountainous 75-ft. seas, and at times only the tips of the cross-trussed legs were visible above towering waves (*See right*). At one point during the storm, the floating platform is reported to have ripped loose from the tug **Zeeland.** But the tow was recovered and the platform arrived safely at Gela, Sicily showing little storm damage.

The **Scarabeo** is actually a $1 million "portable drilling island," designed to operate in conjunction with the drill tender **Saipem.** The triangular hull of the platform measures 120-ft. by 115-ft. by 13-ft. It is equipped to drill below 10,000-ft., and lifts itself on the towering legs at the rate of one foot a minute. It is owned by SAIPEM, a subsidiary of Enta Nazionale Idrocarburi, the Italian oil monopoly.

(*Continued on next page*)



**MOUNTAINOUS WAVE leaves only tips of legs showing as platform lurches into trough at end of tow-line.**

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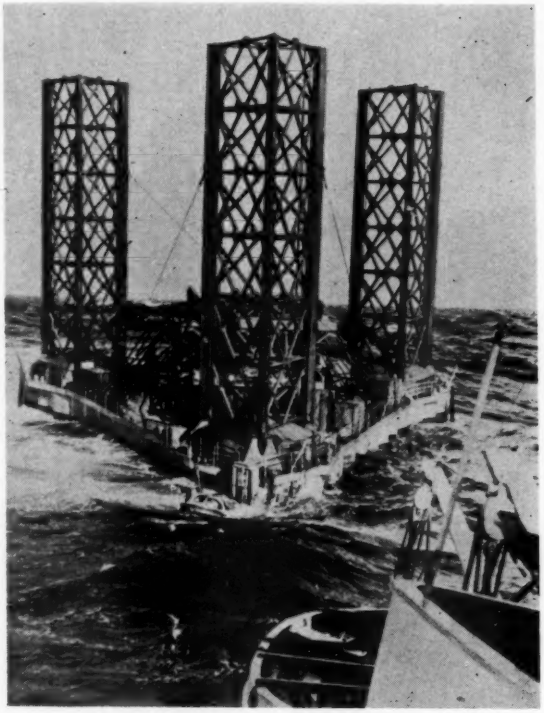
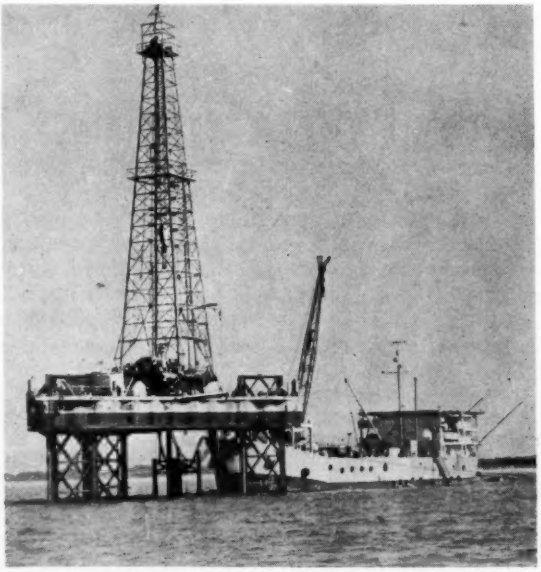
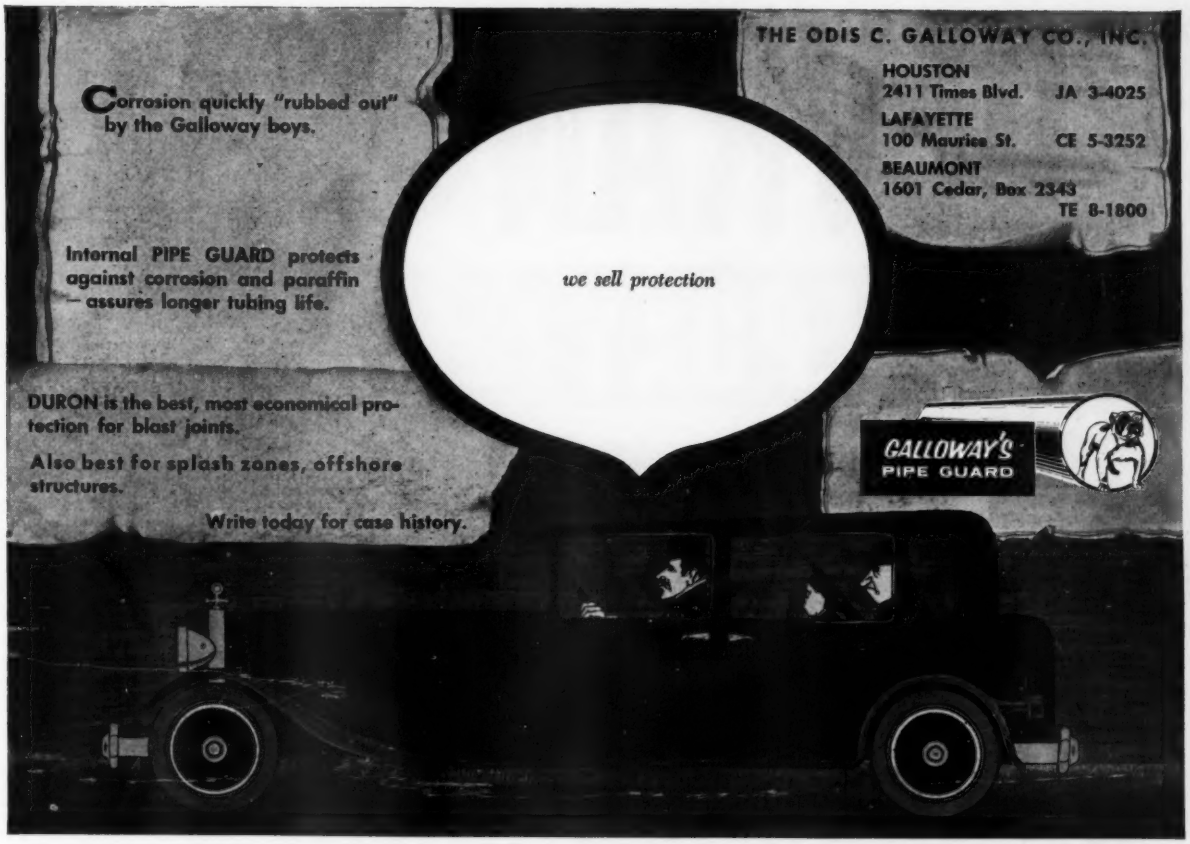
## And calm aftermath . . .



**SCARABEO IS SHOWN during relatively calm period. This picture and the dramatic photographs on the preceding page were taken by the mate of the ZEELAND, the ocean tug which handled the 7,000-mile tow. The mobile drilling platform was designed and constructed by R. G. LeTourneau, Inc. of Longview, Texas, and sold to the Italian concern.**



**AFTER STORMY VOYAGE from U.S., the mobile platform and 5,000-ton tender SAIPEM is shown on location near Gela, Sicily, drilling the first offshore well in Italian waters. E.N.I. originally planned to use the three-legged platform for exploratory drilling in the Persian Gulf offshore from Iran, but it was diverted to its present location 1¼ miles off the Sicilian coast.**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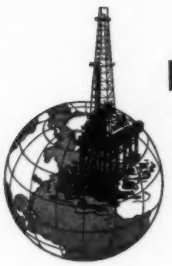

## Probing the earth's secrets

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For if present plans are consummated, the vessel will drill the "Mohole," an 18,000-ft. test that will penetrate the interior of the earth, providing invaluable geological and biological information dating back perhaps to the earth's very beginning.

Since his earliest origin, man has been profoundly curious of his environment. In his eternal search for knowledge, he has tried to learn more of his own planet—a strange and wonderful vehicle, suspended in time, that carries him hurtling through space on a fixed orbit around the sun while rotating at a speed of more than 2000 miles per hour. But while he has flung his rockets beyond the atmosphere, the earth beneath his feet remains a mystery.

What is it made of? Various sciences—astronomy, geology, physics, radiochemistry and paleontology—provide clues. But all of the evidence is indirect, for to date there is no information about the materials of the interior. Man has been unable to take samples of deep rocks for study. The world's deepest hole, drilled in a continental land mass, reached a depth of only 25,340 feet—not enough to penetrate even the earth's crust.

**The earth's crust** . . . Average thickness of the earth's crust, according to accepted theory, is about 10 miles or one four-hundredth of its radius. It is made up of granitic material where continents exist and a basaltic substance under the seas. The crust has an average thickness of

(*Continued on next page*)

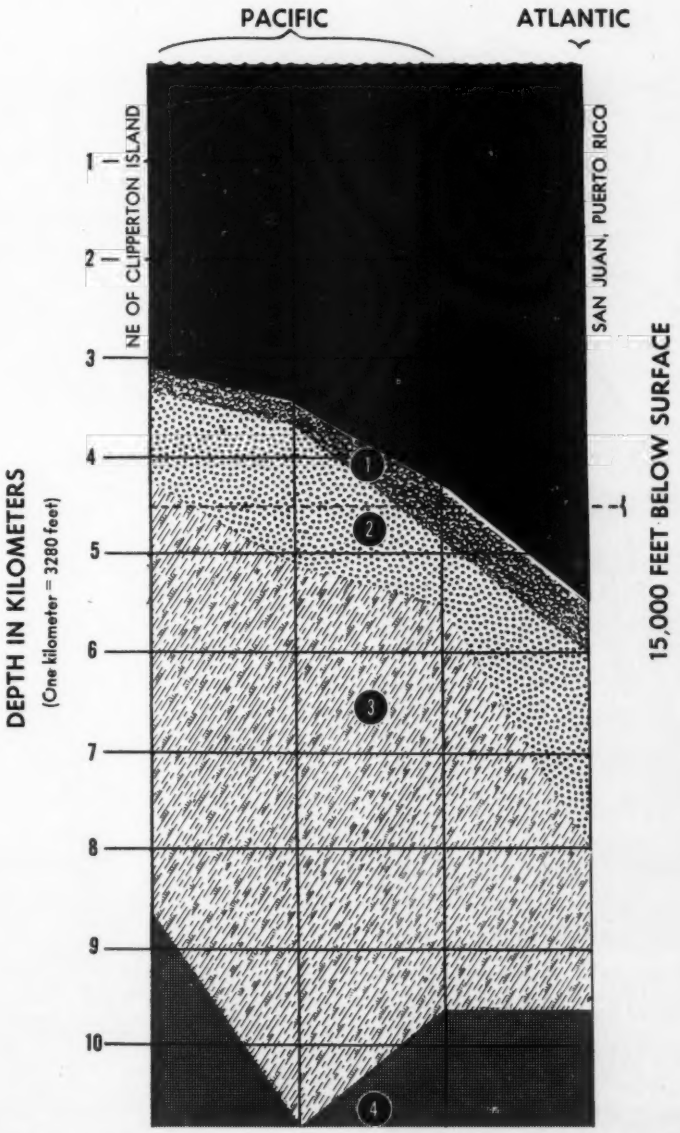


**DIAGRAM SHOWS DEPTH OF WATER and of various layers at four specific drillsites now under consideration. Drill bit would pierce layer made up of oceanic sediments (1). upper layer of earth's chrust (2), and basaltic lower layer of earth's crust (3) to reach the underlying mantle (4).**

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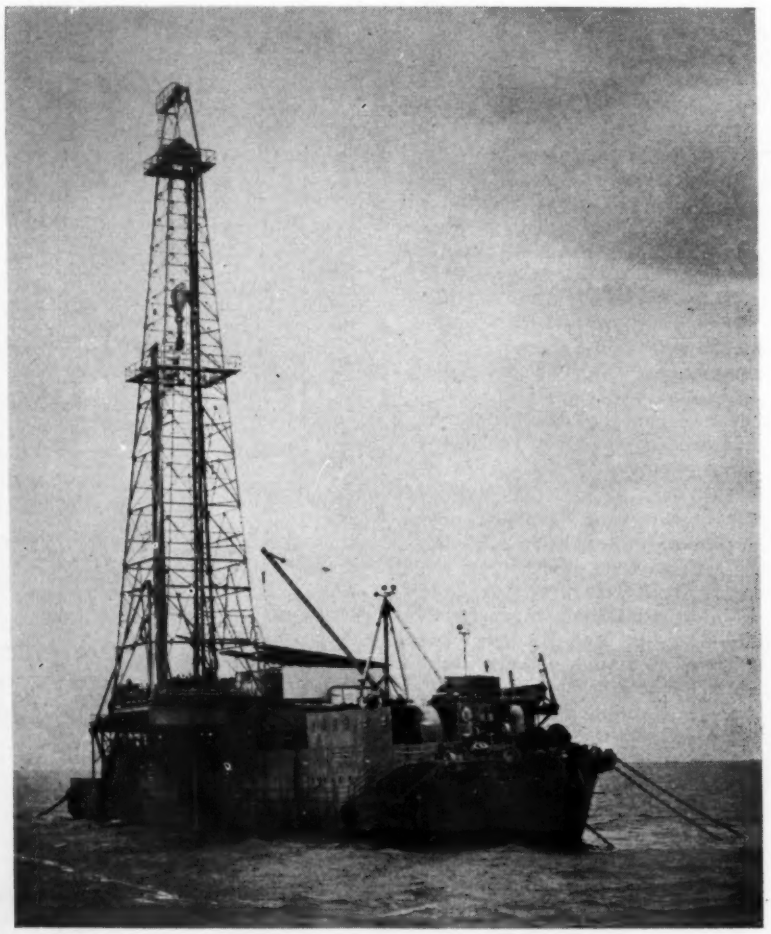
**"Lowered through 2½ miles of water, drill pipe will be only slightly more rigid than cables"**

about 20 miles under the continents —which push up like icebergs, with their greater mass buried—but it is believed the suboceanic crust may thin out to as little as 2½ miles in some places. Although overlain with a half mile of sediment and another 2½ miles of water, the mantle is much closer to the surface of the sea than to the surface of the land.

**Reason for the Mohole . . .** The "Mohole" is derived from the Mohorovicic discontinuity which is the dividing line between the earth's crust and the underlying mantle, thought to be composed principally of peridotite rock. Scientists refer to it as Moho, hence the hole to be drilled to the discontinuity is called the Mohole.

The Mohole would make it possible, for the first time, to secure samples of both the mantle and the deep crust for analysis. It may be that the age of both the crust and the mantle can be determined through radioactive analysis. But

(*Continued on page* 16)



**FLOATING DRILLING VESSELS such as Zapata Off-Shore Company's NOLA 1, shown here on location off the Louisiana coast, have developed techniques of overwater drilling that will prove invaluable to the Mohole project—man's first effort to probe the interior of the earth.**

YESTERDAY it wasn't there. Today, he picks it up and wonders: *why did it grow like that?* The miracle of growth! Whether it's a "toadstool" that springs up overnight or a cancer cell that suddenly comes into being, we've a lot to learn about the whole beautiful process of orderly growth . . . and the dreadful, senseless growth that is cancer.

**The cancer puzzle** is tied up in growth —growth of body cells smaller than the periods on this page.

Scientists, working under grants from the American Cancer Society, are ceaselessly studying cells—normal and cancer cells. And they too are asking: *Why?*

*Why* do cells suddenly change from normal growth to uncontrolled, disorderly growth? This question can be answered only by the most probing, painstaking and costly research.

**Your contributions** to the American Cancer Society will support hundreds of scientific studies necessary to save lives today and tomorrow.

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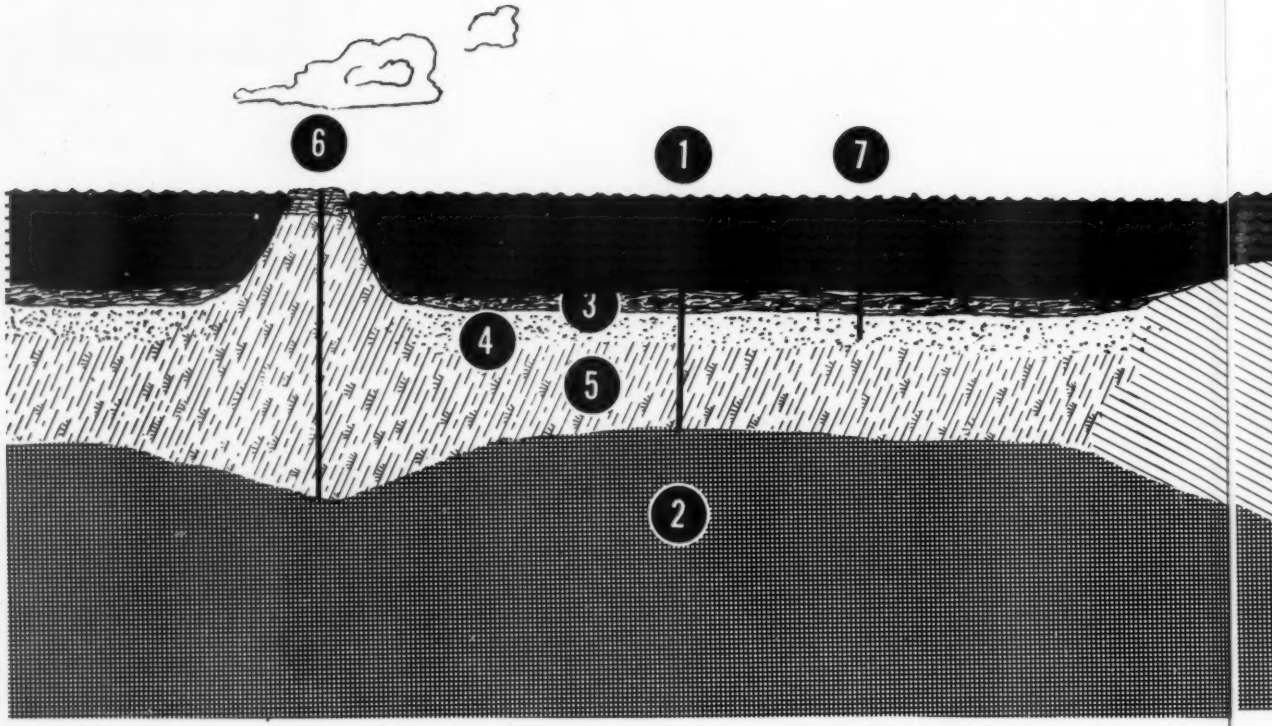



**SCHEMATIC OF EARTH'S CRUST, highly simplified, shows the "Mohole" (1), which it is hoped will reach the earth's mantle (2). The drill bit will first bore through oceanic sediments (3), the upper or second layer of the earth's crust (4), and the lower basaltic layer (5). At left (6) is an oceanic island, considered unsuitable because there are no sediments and it is further to the discontinuity. A drill string through only the oceanic sediments (7) would furnish invaluable information, if a deeper test failed. The continental shelf area (8)**

## "Mohole will be drilled from a floating vessel moored in the deep ocean. To reach Moho from land, a hole would have to be drilled to about 100,000 feet"

such is the imponderable mystery of the earth's interior, the Moho may not be immediately recognized when it is reached.

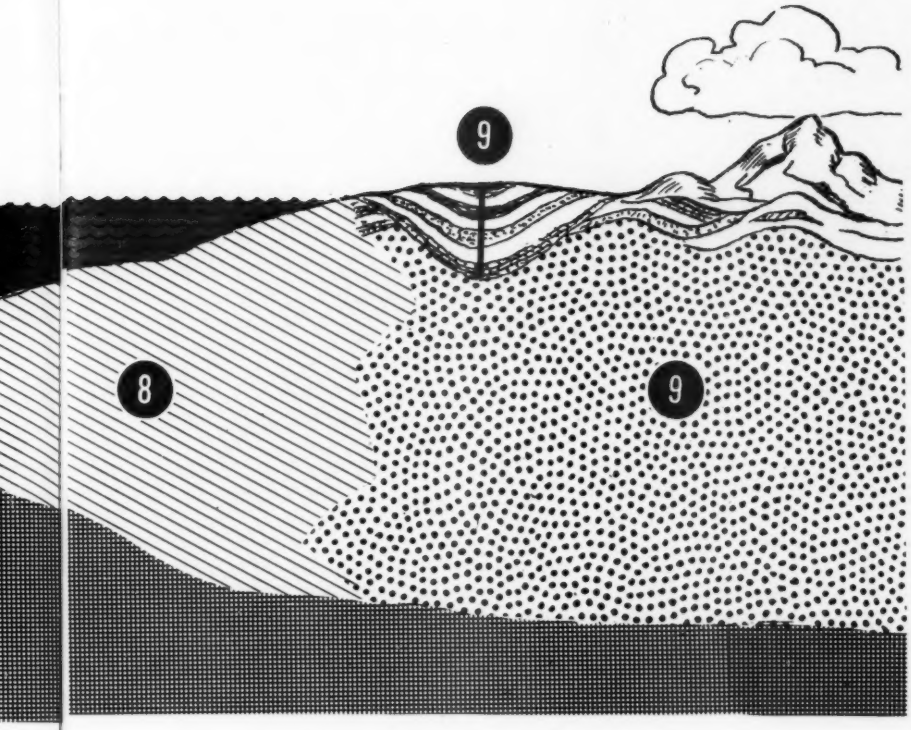
**Objectives** . . . The Mohole will have other fascinating objectives. Oceanic sediments are unlike sedimentary rocks found on land. Softer and unconsolidated to a considerable depth, there are areas where they show little evidence of ever having been disturbed by crustal movements. Cores may show a complete history of sedimentation since the process first began. The earth's climatic history may be similarly recorded. Cores may bring up evidence of the time life on earth actually began.

And drilling back through time, the whirling bit may reach the actual primordial surface of the earth. Evidence brought up may show this surface to be similar to the face of the moon. The bit may encounter ancient meteorites.

**Drilling the Mohole** . . . It is easily seen that this impressive project, of intense interest to the man in the street as well as scientists, can best be undertaken from a floating vessel moored in the ocean depths. It follows that the offshore industry will be tapped for its know-how, for marine oil operators have developed equipment and techniques that will prove invaluable to the undertaking. Their experience is essential to the success of the project.

Even so, the experiment will not be accomplished in one easy step. When a suitable drill site has been selected, modifications must be made in existing equipment to adapt it to the operation of a drill string two miles longer than any ever assembled. Heavy six-inch drill pipe, lowered through 2½ miles of water, will be only slightly more rigid than the cables that guide it to the bottom. Various solutions to this problem are being studied, and the development of a wire-line core-retrieving method has been suggested.

But the oil industry is optimistic




**is a transition zone, underlain by materials of uncertain composition. The world's deepest well (9) was drilled on dry land to a total depth of 25,340 feet—to reach the Mohorovicic discontinuity, a drill bit would have to penetrate only about 18,000 feet below the ocean floor. Continental masses are underlain by granitic material (9). Drawing is not to scale.**

that these difficulties can be overcome. Several offshore operators are already studying the project.

**Drillsite** . . . Several likely oceanic locations have been suggested.

That the project is being given serious scientific consideration is evidenced by the fact that a flotilla of ships is already investigating the first of four possible drillsites. In the Atlantic Ocean north of Puerto Rico there is an area some 200 miles long from east to west and 150 miles wide from north to south known as the Outer Ridge. The ridge comes to within 14,000 feet of the ocean surface (*See drawing on p.* 13), and lies between deeper parts of the Atlantic known as the Abyssal Plain and the Puerto Rican Trench.

The flotilla of search ships is made up of the **Vema,** from Columbia University's Lamont Geological Laboratory; **Gibbs,** a former seaplane tender now operated by Columbia for the Navy; **Bear,** from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; and **Hidalgo,** a research vessel owned and operated by Texas A. & M. College.

Should the Outer Ridge area of the Atlantic bottom prove unsuitable, sites in the Pacific are also being considered.

Possible locations in the Pacific include a site due south of San Diego, near the equator, and near Clipperton Island or Guadalupe Island (*See chart on p.* 13).

Major considerations in selecting a location are to find a place relatively free of strong currents, hurricanes and severe weather conditions, and also one with a port conveniently near to support drilling operations.

**Exploratory program** . . . The exploratory program, which will cost several million dollars, may consume years as it advances through developmental stages preceding the actual drilling of the Mohole. The most rewarding of these preliminary stages will probably be obtaining a sedimentary record of the ocean bed. This test, drilled in one of the ocean deeps where sediment has settled since the ocean first appeared, might give scientists a complete picture of the biological history of the earth.

**Engineering problems** . . . Not the least of the engineering problems that must be overcome is mooring a vessel in such great depths over soft ocean bottoms. A way must be found to handle the world's longest drill string under the most adverse drilling conditions ever encountered, to circulate drilling mud, and to core from a height of nearly 2½ miles above the actual drillsite.

**Previous experience** . . . Minor offshore operations, such as coring, have been conducted from floating barges for several years. Zapata Off-Shore Company of Houston, Texas, has conducted both drilling and workover operations from a floating vessel—the converted YF barge **Nola 1**—in the Gulf of Mexico. Operating in relatively shallow water, **Nola 1** drilled one hole to 9,000 feet and a second to approximately 11,000 feet. The 9,000-ft. well was completed in eleven days.

In the Gulf of Paria, a floating drill barge owned and operated by The Offshore Company of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has drilled several tests below 10,000 feet. One test reached 11,337—and is reportedly

(*Continued on next page*)

**A FLOATING PLATFORM such as this "Seven Seas Rig," designed for deep sea drilling and mining by boatbuilder Jack Casey of Mermentau, Louisiana, might be used for drilling the Mohole.**

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## Mohole . . .

(*Continued from preceding page*)

the world's first oil discovery made from a floating vessel.

**CUSS I,** a converted Navy YFNB freight barge adapted for core drilling off the California coast, has operated in water depths ranging up to 360 feet. In one instance, eight core holes were drilled by the rig to an average depth of 5,000 feet. Average time required to complete and abandon each core hole was 12.8 days.

**Who is behind it . . .** Mohole is a project of the AMSOC Committee, with Gordon Lill as chairman and Willard Bascom as technical director, and is being conducted under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences. *Offshore* is indebted to AMSOC for supplying information for this article, as well as preliminary sketches from which drawings accompanying the article were made.

In a letter to the editors of *Offshore,* Mr. Bascom points out that the committee's plans are still flexible, and that suggestions, ideas and criticisms from knowledgeable readers will be welcomed.

**Into the prehistoric past . . .** If Mohole is successful, it may well be man's first look deep into his prehistoric past.

**"Surely you've heard of the 'Adams-for-peace' program?"**

# Floating Vessel Drills Discovery Off Peru

Drilling on a 26,000-acre concession in the Pacific off northern Peru, Richfield Oil Corporation's floating drilling vessel **Rincon** has successfully completed a 400 bpd producer. Location is about 3 miles offshore, and adjacent to the onshore Lobitos field.

Richfield and Cities Service each have a half interest in the concession, which was acquired from Douglas Oil Company by Peruvian Pacific Petroleum Company, a Cities Service subsidiary.

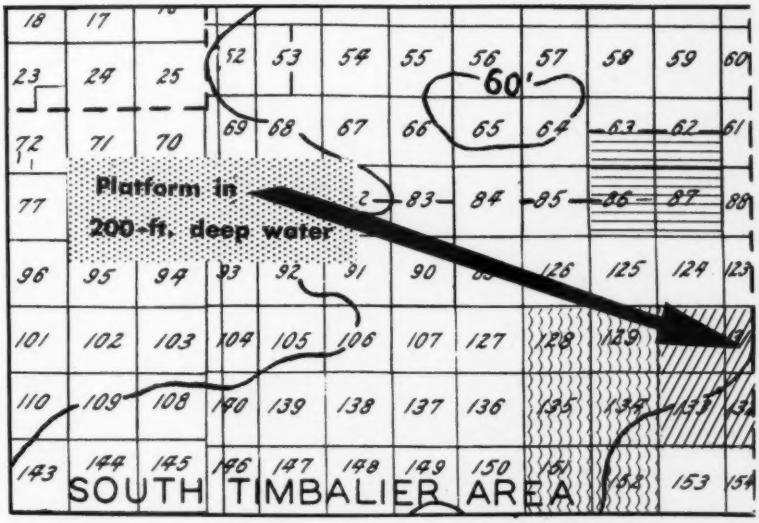
The **Rincon** had drilled a previous dry hole on the concession. The discovery is producing from perforations at 2,807-2,996-ft.

# Gulf Drills From Platform In 200-Ft. Water

Gulf Oil Corporation has ventured into the deepest water yet in the Gulf of Mexico. The company has rigged up to drill a test from a fixed platform set in 200 feet of water—64-ft. deeper than has yet been drilled in by either a platform rig or mobile unit.

Location is in Block 131 of the South Timbalier area, about 40 miles off the Louisiana coast. For stability, Gulf has erected a "pyramid-type" platform, 90-ft. square at the ocean floor and tapering up to a 30-ft. by 30-ft. platform towering 40-ft. above the waves. A superstructure measuring 40-ft. by 45-ft., and cantilevered over the sides of the platform, provides additional working space.

Salt Dome Production Company is using the Gulf drill tender **Pelican** for the venture.





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### Special study reveals

# Drilling Costs Soaring

**Costs of offshore wells in the Gulf of Mexico, which averaged almost nine times those on dry land, are given as a major factor in sharp price boost**

A special study on drilling costs—the second ever compiled on an industry-wide basis—gave dramatic testimony to the multi-billion dollar risks and staggering costs that U.S. oil men are embracing in their constant search for petroleum.

Prepared by the American Petroleum Institute, the Independent Petroleum Association of America, and the Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association, the current study is based on 1955 and 1956 data—the most recent available—and provides these highlights:

1) Oil men and oil companies invested $5 billion 468 million in drilling 113,056 wells in those two years. Of this, $1 billion 683 million went down the drain for 42,591 non-productive dry holes.

2) The average cost per well went up from $6,500 in 1955 to $40,200 in 1956, due largely to increased offshore activity, deeper drilling, and higher prices for labor and materials.

3) Drilling costs skyrocketed as depths increased. For example, wells over 15,000 feet ran nearly 29 times more than those in relatively shallow areas of 2500 to 3750 feet.

4) Costs of offshore wells, in the Gulf of Mexico, averaged almost nine times more than those on dry land.

## Alaska

### Offshore Lands May Go On Competitive Bid Basis

Three million acres of Alaska tidal and submerged lands may be put up for competitive bidding in mid-summer of this year. Leases will be awarded to the individual bidding the highest cash bonus. These leases will carry a rental rate of one dollar per acre per year and a royalty rate of not less than 12½ percent.

Under terms of the new Alaska Land Act, state-owned lands will also be leased on a noncompetitive basis. Leases on these lands will be issued to the first qualified person making application. Rental will be 50 cents per acre and royalty a flat rate of 12½ percent.

Tidal and submerged lands will be offered in parcels not to exceed 5760 acres; upland competitive areas, not more than 640 acres; and all noncompetitive lands, 2560 acres.

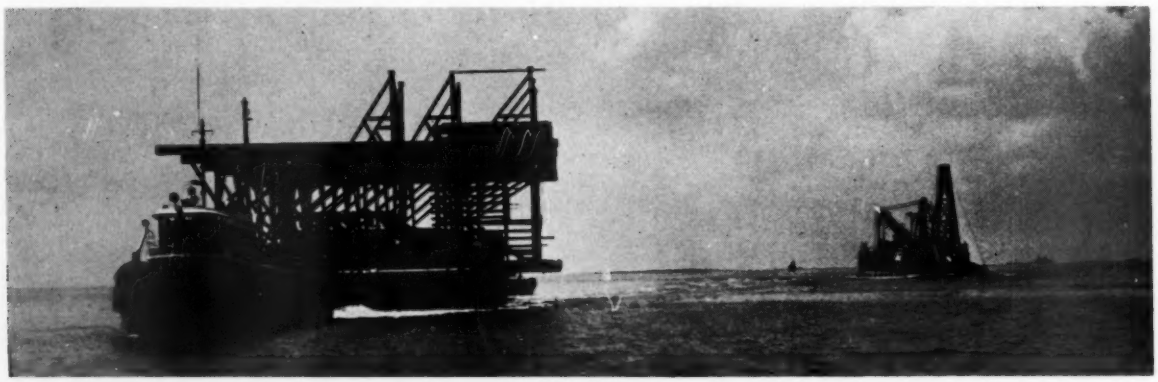
### Union-Ohio Group Awarded 229,000-Acre Concession

Over a quarter million acres of the Knik-Arm—Cook Inlet area is now under contract for development by Union Oil Company of California and The Ohio Oil Company during the next four years.

The Union-Ohio group waited more than a year while the Department of the Interior studied their application before receiving the 229,000-acre pact.

Union-Ohio received the second

(*Continued on page* 26)



# 27-Well Platform, Derrick Barge Bound For Paria

The big steel structure on the barge at left above is a 27-well platform destined for the Gulf of Paria. It was prefabricated in the yards of Brown & Root Marine Operators, Inc. in Houston for Paria Operations, Inc.

The Brown & Root derrick barge **Herman B**, at right, will be used to set the platform once it has arrived on location. Brown & Root tugs **M. P. Anderson** and **Pan-American** are shown getting the two barges positioned in Galveston roads, preparatory to starting the 17-day tow. Both the cargo barge and derrick barge were towed by the **Anderson**.

Para Operations, Inc. is a joint venture of Continental Oil Company of Venezuela, Texas Petroleum Company, The Ohio Oil Company of Venezuela, Venezuela-Cities Service Petroleum Corporation, and Richfield Oil Corporation.

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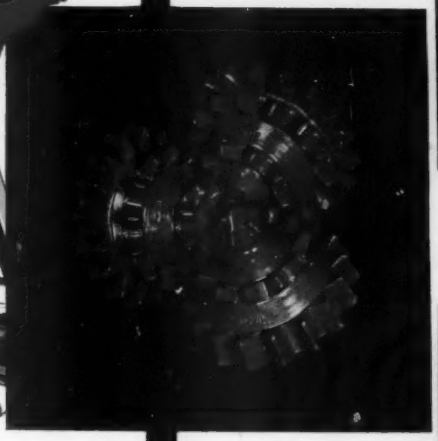


## M4N

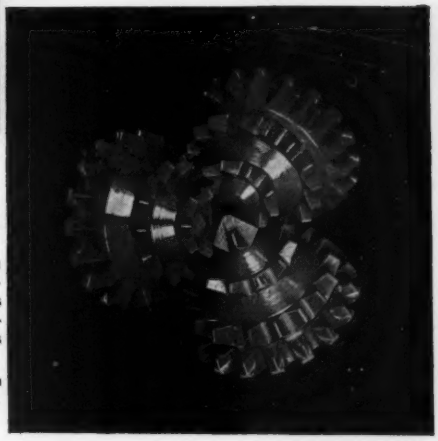
**FORMATION RATINGS:** For shale, lime, sand, shaley lime, and other medium to medium hard formations.

**SIZES:** 23 bit sizes from 5⅞ inches to 12¼ inches

## M4

**FORMATION RATINGS:** For hard lime, hard shale, hard sands, anhydrite, dolomite, and other medium hard to hard formations.

**Sizes:** 23 bit sizes from 5⅞ inches to 12¼ inches



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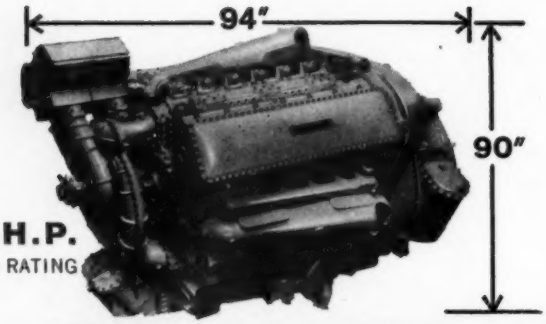


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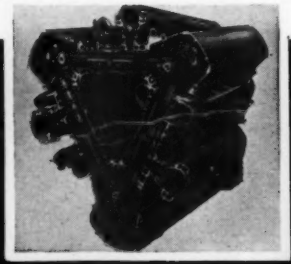

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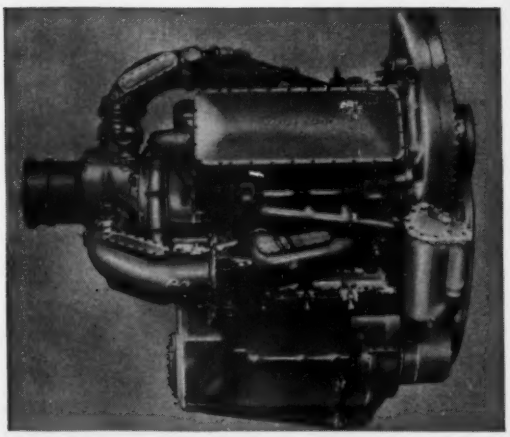

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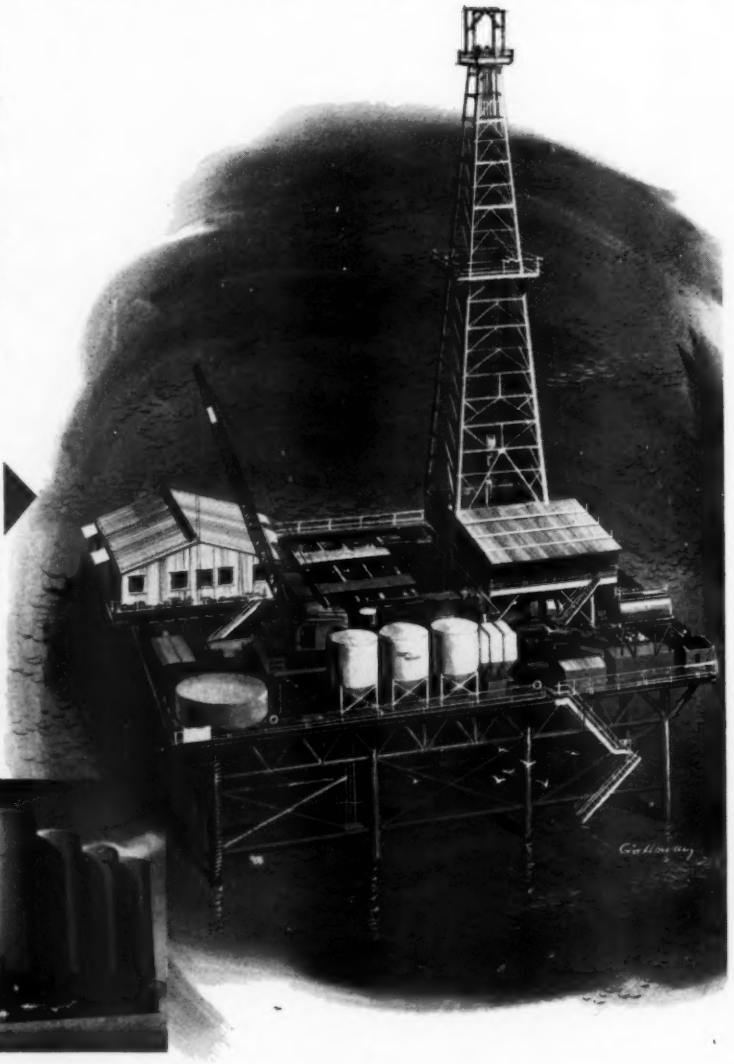

Magnolia Petroleum Company's offshore operation located off the southern coast of Louisiana. Installation consists of 3-820 cu. ft. capacity each pneumatic tanks to store weighting material or drilling mud; plus two additonal 820 cu. ft. tanks containing bulk cement. Each set of tanks is equipped with a surge bin to feed the dry material directly into the cement or mud system. Tanks provide 1,000 sacks of weighting material each or 700 sacks of cement materials.

Tanks on platform are loaded from 820 cu. ft. pneumatic tanks on work boat through a specially designed 4½" I.D. rubber hose. A 300 cfm compressor and dust collectors also used during transfer operations. Work boat tanks are filled from pneumatic trailers or storage tanks.

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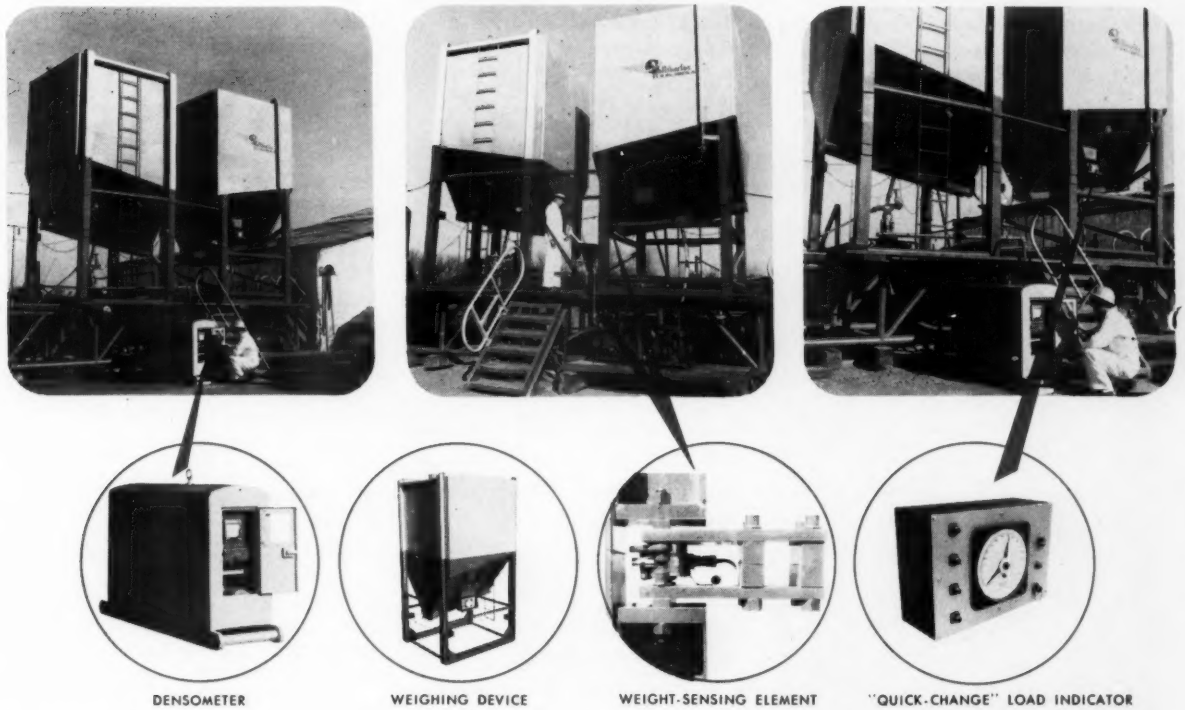
Bulk mud system shown in use at the Big Chief Drilling Company's "Fain-Porter" onshore operation at a drilling location in Southern Oklahoma. Halliburton Pneumatic system automatically and continuously meters finely divided bulk material from portable storage bins into mud mixers or mud pits. Bins are available in varying capacities ranging from 240 to 578 cu. ft. of aerated material and are equipped with orifice proportioning valve which properly maintains drilling mud systems in balance. *Available for lease only.*



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The Halliburton Densometer, a slurry weight indicating instrument, was successfully used on the Pneumatic operation. It performs with complete accuracy, is easy to operate and maintain. A continuous density reading of the drilling mud down hole was provided throughout its entire operation. The instrument is equipped with a gauge which permanently records fluid density onto a strip chart recorder. Its ability to provide continuous sampling, recording and reading of density of fluid in lbs./gal. of the drilling mud proved to be a significant advancement for better control of drilling muds with greater economy.

**WEIGHING DEVICE**

After extensive research and testing of many various types of weighing systems, Halliburton developed a weighing system for better control of drilling muds, additives, and/or other bulk materials at drilling site.

**WEIGHT-SENSING ELEMENT**

Bulk mud is placed in a storage bin with *each* of the four supporting legs equipped with a sensing element. The weight on each of the four legs is relayed to a 80,000 lbs. capacity load indicator.

**"QUICK-CHANGE" LOAD INDICATOR**

The "quick-change" load indicator receives the four cell outputs which are totalized by the single indicator which is powered by a small battery. Totalized weight is directly indicated on dial. One "quick-change" may be moved from one storage bin to another.

## HALLIBURTON CEMENTING SERVICES

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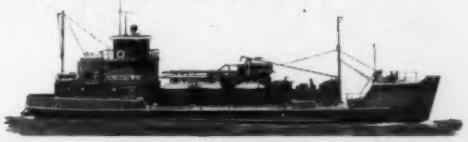
PNEUMATIC BULK MATERIAL HANDLING EQUIPMENT



"CONTINUE TO LOOK TO HALLIBURTON — FOR LEADERSHIP"

## Alaska . . .

(*Continued from page 20*)

Alaskan lease granted recently. Earlier Richmond Oil Corporation secured the Katalla-Yakutat tract, totaling 490,000-acres.

## California

### Wilmington Suit Delayed As Subsidence Is Slowed

Progress in halting subsidence in the giant Wilmington field of California has caused the federal government to hold up its suit against operators in the field.

Subsidence was halted completely in a 600-acre section and was partially halted over 900 additional acres. One area where sinking of the land was considerably slowed was the southeastern end of the big naval shipyard at Long Beach. As a result the Navy has softened its threats to move the shipyard, but a prominent naval official warned against letting up of the voluntary crash program in case the threatened move should be carried out.

In its suit against the producers in the field, the government demanded that subsidence be stopped or that the field be shut in and millions of dollars damages be paid.

A recent court order grants producers until September 1 to begin a large scale voluntary repressuring program in the field or be placed under a compulsory program.

Plans have been made for a $60 million, five-year repressuring program, whereby 900,000 bbls. of sea water per day will be injected back into the producing formations.

### Navy Seeks To Restrict 3 Mile Offshore Area

The Navy has requested the establishment of a restricted naval area between Point Conception and Point Sal, Calif., according to a report from Western Oil and Gas Association.

The area would cover a three-mile wide band of water approximately 35 miles in length which, according to the State Lands Commission, overlies one of the four most favorable geologic areas for offshore oil development.

## Florida

### Only Two Companies Bid For Offshore Tracts

Only two major companies, bidding jointly on 22 tracts, appeared willing to gamble that oil could be found in the offshore area west of Florida's Marquesa Keys.

A total of 80 tracts were offered for lease by the Bureau of Land Management. But only two companies—The California Company and Gulf Oil Corporation—submitted bids. The two companies bid jointly on 22 tracts. The California Company bid on one additional tract.

Total bonus payment offered was $1,711,872 for approximately 132,480 acres involved in the 23 tracts, or an average of $12.92 per acre. Minimum acceptable bid designated by the Bureau of Land Management was $10 per acre.

The 5-year leases do not carry drilling commitments.

## Lake Erie

### Argonyn I Spuds In Second Try On U.S. Side Of Lake

New York State Natural Gas Corporation's portable drill barge Argonyn I is drilling a second offshore well on the U. S. side of Lake Erie.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Location is the company's 19,130-acre Tract No. 2, about 3½ miles from shore and near the Pennsylvania-New York line.

New York Natural drilled its first offshore well last year on Tract No. 1, near the Pennsylvania-Ohio line. The test went to 5,098-ft., but was completed at 2,525-ft. for 200 Mcf daily of gas. The well is presently shut-in.

### Place Drills Lake Producer With New Floating Platform

Place Oil & Gas Company Limited, of Toronto, has drilled a gas well on the Canadian side of Lake Erie with **Mr. Cliff,** the company's new mobile drilling platform.

Place-Walpole No. 3, in the Selkirk area, tested at 925 mcf daily. It is a stepout to the discovery well Place-Walpole No. 1, made last year. The company announced that this year's major development work will be on the 80-square-mile offshore block.

In the Port Dover Area, Place-Dover No. 5 is drilling on an offset location to Place-Dover No. 3, one of four successful wells the company has in the area. The well is being drilled from a wooden platform constructed on piling, and like the Walpole well is being drilled to test the Red Medina pay zones.

Place-Gosfield No. 1, first exploration venture by the company in the western sector of the lake, is located approximately one mile offshore from Kingsville, Ontario, offsetting the Kingsville gas field. It is about one mile west of the Bluewater gas discovery of last season.

Farther west, Place is constructing a platform for its Place-Colchester No. 1, the first well to be drilled on a 9400-acre tract offsetting the "Trenton oil find" of Imperial-Harvest-Submarine.

Place is employing cable tool drilling equipment on all four wells.

## Louisiana

### Phillips Farms Out Five Blocks To Tennessee Gas

Tennessee Gas has acquired 21,081 offshore acres from Phillips Petroleum Company, in a farm out agreement that calls for the Houston-based firm to carry on an extensive program of exploration and development.

Production has been established on two out of five blocks involved. There are three gas-condensate wells in the 8,750-acre Block 40 field, five miles south of Calcasieu Pass in the West Cameron area, and two gas-condensate wells on the 4,831-acre Block 5 in the Timbalier Bay field off the coast of Lafourche Parish.

A 2,500-acre lease comprising the north half of Block 77 in the Block 76 field is offset by gas-condensate production on two sides, and is considered semi-proven. The two remaining leases comprise 2,500 acres each. One is the west half of Block 215, Eugene Island area, and the other is the south half of Block 86, South Timbalier area, and is 22 miles offshore.

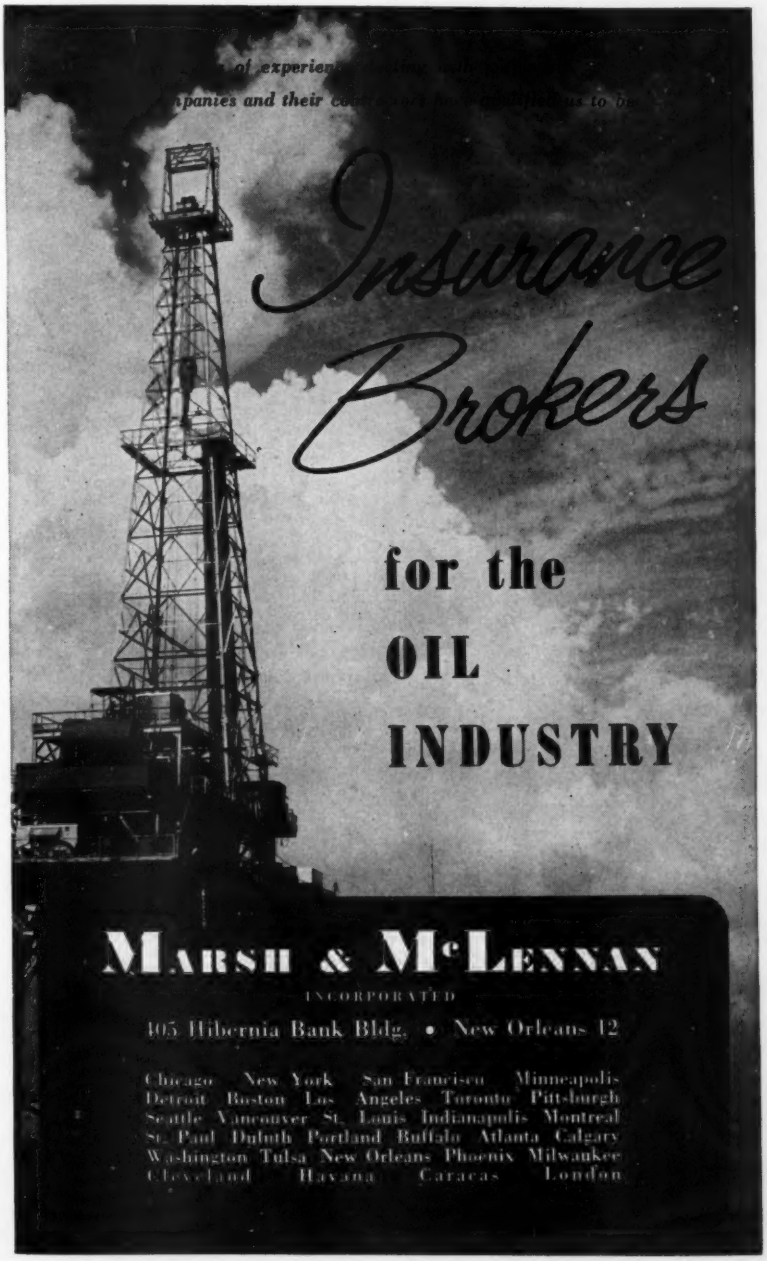
### Vermilion Channel To Gulf Has Been Approved

Approval of plans for the proposed deep water channel project in Vermillion parish, made by the division engineers at Vicksburg, Miss., is official.

The channel outlet to the Gulf of Mexico will be 12 feet deep and 125 feet wide, from the Intracoastal Canal near Intracoastal City to the Gulf.

District engineers at New Orleans estimate cost of construction will be $7,434,000, plus an additional $175

(*Continued on next page*)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## Louisiana . . .

(*Continued from preceding page*)

thousand by local interests for rights-of-way and spoil banks, etc.

The channel project is approved to include locks 56 feet wide and 600 feet long for control of salt water intrusion.

### TGT Plans 10-in. Line to Move Gas from Eugene Island Area

A 10-in. offshore gas pipeline has been planned by Tennessee Gas Transmission Company in the Eugene Island area of the Gulf of Mexico.

The line will extend from a platform in Block 18 to another structure in Block 5, Atchafalaya Bay area, a distance of about seven mi. From there it will be laid about seven more mi. to an onshore location about 16.6 mi. southwest of Patterson, Louisiana. TGT's application is now being considered by the Department of the Army.

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NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA


### Louisiana Proclaims '59 Oil Centennial Year

Louisiana has proclaimed 1959 as Oil Centennial Year, the week of August 23-29 as Oil Centennial Week, and the period of October 8-11 as Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition Week at Lafayette in connection with the oil show there.

## Persian Gulf

### Reading & Bates Rig On Location After Rough Trip

Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Company's mobile platform **C. E. Thornton** has arrived on its first drilling location in the Persian Gulf, after a troublesome 11,500-mile voyage from the Gulf of Mexico. During a storm in the Mediterranean, two lines to the platform's tug were broken and it was adrift for 2½ days in rough seas.

Outfitted on location, the 3,000-ton platform has spudded in its initial well. The wildcat is reportedly in 100 feet of water, 25 miles from shore in the Neutral Zone of the Persian Gulf in Safaniya field. The well is expected to be carried to a depth of 8,000 feet.

The platform will be the first of any type to drill on a contract basis in that area of the world. The drilling venture represents combined efforts of the Tulsa firm and International Drilling Company. Reading & Bates will supply all equipment and some supervisory personnel, while IDC will manage the overall operation. Signing the two companies was Arabian Oil Company, a Japanese firm with headquarters in Tokyo.

### Arabian American Board Of Directors Elects Two

Shaikh Hafiz Wahba, Saudi Arabia's ambassador-at-large to the Arab world, and Shaikh Abdallah H. Tariki, Saudi Arabia's director general of Petroleum and Mineral Affairs, have been elected to the board of directors of the Arabian American Oil Co.

The new directors were added to the Aramco board in keeping with an agreement between the Saudi Arab government and the company that the government should have representation upon the board.

### Mobile Platform Launched, Replaces Storm-Wrecked Unit

At the Gusto shipyard at Schiedam, launching recently took place of the mobile drilling platform or-

dered by the Royal Dutch Shell group as a replacement for the one wrecked in a storm off Qatar in December, 1956.

It is expected that the tow out to the Persian Gulf will be commenced in August.

## Texas

### Continental Oil Acquires San Jacinto Petroleum

Continental Oil Comapny and San Jacinto Petroleum Corp. have announced closing of a transaction under which Conoco acquires two-thirds of San Jacinto's common stock in exchange for 824,000 shares of Conoco stock.

In addition to the two-thirds interest in San Jacinto, Continental had acquired approximately 10 percent of the San Jacinto stock from several large stockholders of the company. San Jacinto will continue to operate as a separate corporation under present management.

### Tideland Rental Fees Must Be Paid Is State Ruling

Leaseholders must pay rental on disputed areas off the coast of Texas, even though the state's ownership of these areas remains undecided.

The ruling was made by the state's attorney general. Rental will be collected and held in escrow until the U.S. Supreme Court decides whether the state's boundary extends three or 10½ miles into the Gulf of Mexico.

### Diversa, Inc. Is New Name For Dallas Based Company

Diversa, Inc. is the new name for C. G. Glasscock-Tidelands Oil Company of Dallas.

Diversa, which has assumed the former operations of Glasscock and Murmanil Corporation, will operate 12 offshore rigs on oil and gas properties which it holds off the coasts of Louisiana and Texas.

### Transco Proposes Gas Line To Extend 8 Mi. Off Texas

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation plans to lay a 10.5-mi. 10-in. pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico eight mi. south of Sabine Pass off Jefferson County, Texas.

The line will connect a platform in State Tract 10 with an onshore point in State Tract 5.

TGT has also applied to the Army for permission to lay 16, 14, 10 and 8-in. gas pipe lines beneath Gulf waters out to a distance of 41.1 mi. south of Morgan City, Louisiana. The proposed lines will connect wells in the South Pelto, Ship Shoal, and Eugene Island areas. Three different laterals will converge at a 16-in. line in Block 28 of the Ship Shoal area.

## Russia

### Extensive Drilling Scheduled Near Caspian Opposite Baku

In an effort to step up offshore oil production the Russians are giving a great deal of attention to the coastal region of the Caspian Sea opposite Baku.

Under a seven-year plan, the Turkmenian Republic has been assigned an 80 percent increase over the 1957 capacity of 70,000 bbls. per day.

An offshore trestle for drilling overwater wells is being constructed on the Cheleken Peninsula, which was an island before the water receded in recent years. Russia has announced that the first section of the trestle has been completed.

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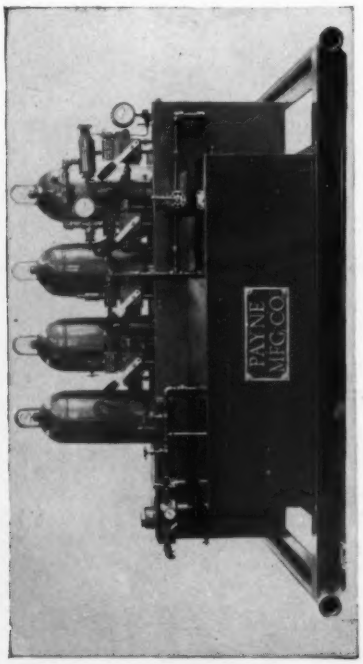



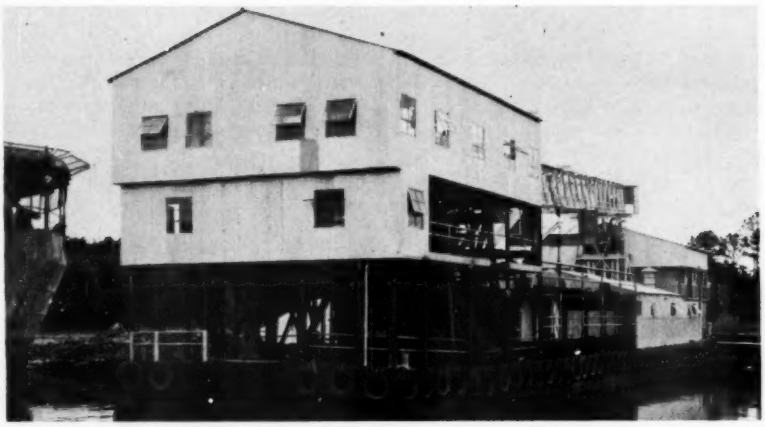

## Versatile new "Henry L"

# Inland Barge For Workover, Drilling

Designed as a marshland workover rig, the inland barge **Henry L** was altered after construction started to allow it to make original hole as well as do workovers.

Built for the New Orleans producing firm of Hawkins and Hawkins by Southern Shipbuilding Corporation of Slidell, the **Henry L** has a submersible hull 176-ft. long by 38-ft. wide by 10-ft. deep. It is equipped with an Emsco Model ECC drawworks, PJ 27½-in. rotary, and 138-ft. Ideco cantilever mast.

**BOP equipment** . . . Blowout preventer equipment includes 10-in. and 7-in. Cameron QRC Series 1500 preventers. A Payne accumulator is mounted on the derrick floor, but there is a remote control for the accumulator on a catwalk at the opposite end of the barge.

**Power** . . . Perhaps the most unusual feature of the rig's design is the unique plan devised by E. H. Wagner of Hawkins and Hawkins for installation of the main generators. Wagner observed that if the two 300 kw dc generators were coupled to each of the three main diesels in customary "tandem" fashion, a breakdown between diesel and first generator could put both generators out of service.

The question arose in Wagner's mind, "Why not one generator on the stub end of the diesel drive-shaft and the other on the fly-wheel end?" The result is a new and different hook-up with a generator on either end of the diesels.

**Other features** . . . Henry L is equipped with three mud tanks, each with a capacity of 450 bbls. Mud pumps are FXQ 7¼ x 16. Return system includes a Rhumba shale shaker and Demco desander. The high pressure pump is an Emsco P5.

Crew quarters are finished in mahogany panelling, and are air-conditioned and electrically heated.

Installation of machinery and equipment was carried out under the supervision of W. V. "Dub" Smith, veteran drilling superintendent now associated with Hawkins and Hawkins.

**H. Lloyd Hawkins, left, and E. H. "Ed" Wagner look over the new Hawkins and Hawkins drilling-workover barge HENRY L.**

# Mobile Units, Tenders, And Self-Contained Platforms Gulf Coast Area

| OWNER | NAME | WATER DEPTH | PRESENT STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barnwell Offshore, Inc. Self-elevating 176′ x 176′ x 152′ with three 145′ legs | "Mister Cap" | to 100′ | Drilling for Sinclair-Sohio, Block 190, Eugene Island |
| Blue Water Drilling Corp. Submersible | Rig No. 1 | 70′ | Drilling for Shell Oil Co., Block 128, Eugene Island Area |
| The California Company Submersible 11′ x 90′ x 156′ with four 3′ x 10′ x 35′ pontoons | S-45 | | Main Pass, Louisiana, Rowan Drilling Co. |
| The California Company Submersible 12′ x 90′ x 190′, with four 4′ x 24′ x 50′ pontoons | S-55 | | Bay Marchand, Louisiana, Noble Drilling Co. |
| Coastal-Marine Drilling and Construction Corp. Submersible | Coastal Mariner No. 2 | | Completed well in Carancahua Bay. Now idle |
| Continental Marine Exploration Co. Submersible 230′ x 99′ with 54′ between fixed hulls | "M & H Drilling Platform No. 12" | To 30′ | Tidewater's State Tract 128A |
| Coral Drilling Company Submersible 180′ x 151′ x 84′ with four pontoons | "Mr. Arthur" | to 70′ | Bay Marchand, California Co. |
| Deepwater Exploration Co. Self-elevating overall 121′ x 118 | "Deepwater No. 2" | | Completely salvaged unit at LeTourneau, Vicksburg yard |
| Delta Marine Drilling Co. Submersible | "Chris Zeppa" | To 35′ | Drilling for Gulf Oil Corp. Block 24, West Delta |
| Dixilyn Drilling Corp. Self-elevating 194′ x 152′ overall. Three 175′ legs | "Julie Ann" | To 105′ | Drilling for Shell Oil Co., Block 189, Eugene Island Area |
| Gulf Marine Drilling, Inc. Submersible | Rig No. 1 | 22′ | Drilling for Gulf Oil Corp. Block 24, West Delta, Well No. 1 |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind., Inc. Submersible 13′ x 54′ x 160′ with two 13′ x 14′ x 110′ pontoons | Rig 40 | to 22′ | Vermilion Bay. Waiting on Location |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind., Inc. Submersible 13½′ x 72′ x 140′ with two 13½′ x 13½′ x 140′ pontoons | Rig 44 | To 40′ | Drilling for self et al, Block 28, Ship Shoal Area |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind., Inc. Submersible 142′ x 69′ x 13′6″, with two 10′ x 11′ x 146′ pontoons | Rig 45 | To 35′ | Drilling for Gulf Oil Corp., Key West, Florida |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind., Inc. Submersible | Rig 46 | To 70′ | Drilling for Gulf Oil Corp., Block 21, South Timbalier Area |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind., Inc. Submersible | Rig 47 | To 70′ | Drilling for Humble Oil & Refining Co., So. Timbalier |
| Louisiana-Delta Offshore Corp. Submersible 180′ x 151′ x 12′ | Drill Barge Louisiana | To 65′ | Drilling for Shell Oil Co. East Bay |


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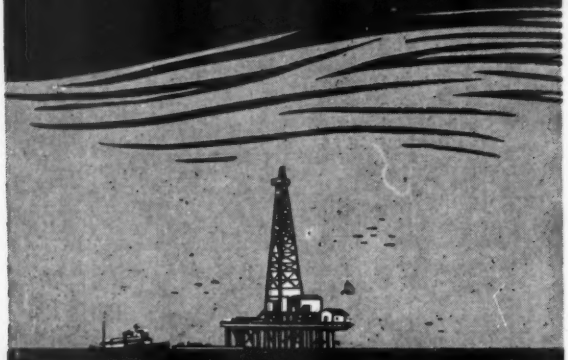

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| OWNER | NAME | WATER DEPTH | PRESENT STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Louisiana-Delta Offshore Corp. Submersible 156′ x 90′ | Drill Barge Delta | To 25′ | Drilling for Shell Eugene Island Area |
| Magnolia Petroleum Co. | Rig 52 | | Drilling in Cote Blanche Bay, St. Mary Parish |
| Movible Offshore Co. Submersible 200′ x 146′ x 67′ | Movible No. 3 | To 45′ | Drilling for John W. Mecom, Block 45, West Cameron Area |
| Movible Offshore Co. Submersible 201′ x 211′ x 110′ | "Movible No. 2" | To 80′ | Drilling for Texaco, Block 119, Eugene Island Area |
| Noble Barge Co. Twin-hull submersible 217′ x 100′ | "Lloyd Noble S-66" | To 100′ | Being built at Avondale Marine Ways |
| Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company Submersible 200′ x 300′ x 98′ | "El Dorado" | To 70′ | Drilling for CIMA, Gulf of Campeche, Mexico |
| Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company Submersible 132′ x 220′ x 58′ | "Mr. Charlie" | 40′ | Drilling for Texaco, Block 17, Eugene Island Area |
| Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company Submersible 120′ x 180′ x 49′ | "John Hayward" | 30′ | Drilling for California Co., Block 93, Eugene Island Area |
| Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company Submersible 200′ x 300′ x 93′ | "Margaret" | To 60′ | Drilling for Shell Oil Co., Block 27, South Pass Area |
| Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company Submersible 120′ x 180′ x 50′ | "St. Louis" | | Drilling for Midwest Oil Corp., Block 90, Eugene Island Area |
| The Offshore Company Self-elevating 81½′ x 70′ x 203′ with twelve 6′ dia. caissons | Mobile Unit No. 51 | | Bayou Boeuf, Louisiana |
| The Offshore Company Self-elevating 131½′ x 117′ x 220′ with fourteen 6′ dia. caissons | Mobile Unit No. 52 | | Modification Orange, Texas |
| The Offshore Company Submersible 12′ x 74′ x 200′ with four 6′ dia. caissons | Mobile Unit No. 53 | | Drilling for J. Ray McDermott Co., Block 2, East Cameron Area |
| The Offshore Company Self-elevating 200′ x 104′ x 15′ with eight 12′ dia. towers | Mobile Unit No. 54 | | Drilling for Texaco and Pan Am., Eugene Island Block 207 |
| The Offshore Company Self-elevating 200′ x 104′ x 15′ with eight 12′ dia. towers | Mobile Unit No. 55 | | Trinidad |
| Penrod Drilling Company Submersible 196′ x 108′ | Rig 50 | 44′ | Eugene Island Area |
| Penrod Drilling Company Submersible 150′ x 190′ | Rig 51 | To 70′ | Grand Isle Area |
| Penrod Drilling Company Submersible 198′ x 174′ | Rig 52 | 100′ | Eugene Island Area |
| Placid Oil Co. Twin submersible hulls, each 72′ x 178′ | Petrel | To 100′ | Eugene Island Area |
| Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Company Self-elevating | "C. E. Thornton" | To 110′ | Persian Gulf |

| OWNER | NAME | WATER DEPTH | PRESENT STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rimrock Tidelands, Inc. Submersible | "Rimtide" | 35' | East Cameron Area, Block 17 |
| Sea Drilling Corp. Submersible | "Seadrill 2" | 30' | Block 13, Vermilion Area |
| Southeastern Drilling Corp. Submersible 11' x 90' x 156' with four pontoons | Rig 22, Barge 8 | | Drilling for Kerr-McGee, Block 35, Ship Shoal area |
| Tidelands Drilling Co. Self-elevating Deck 258' x 104', pad 200' x 180' with four 10' dia. columns | "Mr. Gus II" | 45' | Drilling for CATC Grand Isle, Block 40 |
| Union Producing Co. Submersible 160' x 190' | Barge A | To 76' | On location in Block 116, Eugene Island Area |
| Universal Drilling Company Self-elevating | "Mr. Louie" | To 130' | Being outfitted in New Orleans |
| Zapata Off-Shore Company Self-elevating. 194' x 152' overall. Three 145' legs | "Vinegaroon" | To 80' | Block 77, Vermilion |
| Zapata Off-Shore Company Self-elevating 20' x 80' x 140', with three triangular legs | "Scorpion" | | S/L 3535, Well No. 1, Block 17, East Cameron |

## Drilling Tenders

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| An-Son Offshore Drilling Co. | "Carl B. Anderson" | | Drilling for CATC |
| The California Company Converted LST, 328' x 50' | S-21 | 25' | Bay Marchand, Louisiana, Noble Drilling Co. |
| The California Company Converted LST, 328' x 50' | S-22 | 49' | Bay Marchand, Louisiana, Loffland Brothers |


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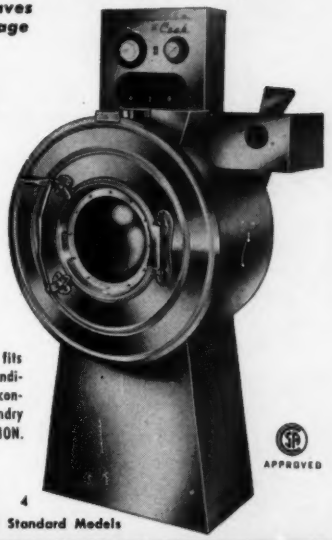

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| OWNER | NAME | WATER DEPTH | PRESENT STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| The California Company Converted LST, 328' x 50' | S-23 | | Being mothballed |
| The California Company LST, 328' x 50' | S-24 | 37' | Bay Marchand, Louisiana, Noble Drilling Co. |
| The California Company LST, 328' x 50' | S-25 | | Bay Marchand, Louisiana Loffland Bros. |
| The California Company LST, 328' x 50' | S-26 | | Standby. Venice, Louisiana. Loffland Bros. rig |
| Coastal-Marine Drilling and Construction Corp. New tender, 272' x 56' | Howard S. Cole Jr. Coastal-Mariner No. 1 | | Sold to Pan American International for use in Persian Gulf |
| CATC Group New tender, 260' x 54' | "J. C. Craig" | 90' | Eugene Island, Block 208 |
| CATC Group New tender, 260' x 54' | "Carle Sharp" | 101' | Ship Shoal, Block 199 |
| CATC Group New tender, 260' x 54' | "Ernie Miller" | 50' | West Delta, Block 45 |
| CATC Group New tender, 260' x 54' | "Jack Cleverley" | | Drydock |
| Deepwater Exploration Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | "Deepwater No. 1" | | Block 174, Ship Shoal area |
| Delta Marine Drilling Co. Converted LST, 326' x 50' | "Joseph Zeppa" | | Stacked |
| Gulf Oil Corporation New tender | "Dolphin" | | Completed placed in moth ball fleet at Orange, Tex., engines pickled, and rig stacked |
| Gulf Oil Corporation Converted LST, 328' x 50' | "Eagle" | | Rig stacked at Morgan City, Louisiana |
| Gulf Oil Corporation New tender, 272' x 60' | "Pelican" | | Block 130, S. Timbalier area, Salt Dome Prod. Co. |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-1 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-2 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-3 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-4 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-5 | | At Orange, Texas for storage |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-6 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-7 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-8 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-9 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-10 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-11 | | Standing by |
| Humble Oil & Refining Co. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | ST-12 | | "Q" Platform in West Delta, Block 30 field |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind. Inc. New Tender, 250' x 50' | "Kermac II" Rig 43 | | Waiting on location |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind. Inc. New Tender, 250' x 50' | "Kermac III" Rig 48 | | Drilling for CATC Block 124, Vermilion |
| Kerr-McGee Oil Ind., Inc. Converted YF, 260' x 48' | "Frank Phillips" Rig 39 | | Waiting on location |
| Liano Drilling Company New tender, 260' x 54' | "Clayton G. Dorn" | | Under bareboat charter to Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Co. |
| Magnolia Petroleum Co. Converted YF | "Gulf Coast Barge No. 2" | | Out of Service |

| OWNER | NAME | WATER DEPTH | PRESENT STATUS |
|---|---|---|---|
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-1 | | Block 139, Eugene Island Area, Well E-1 drilling |
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-2 | | Out of Service |
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-3 | | Out of Service |
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-4 | | Out of Service |
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-5 | | Out of Service |
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-6 | | Out of Service |
| MCN Group Converted YF | MDT-7 | | Out of Service |
| Pan American Petroleum Corp. Converted LST, 328' x 50' | "Pan American 50" | | Orange, Texas |
| Phillips Petroleum Company Converted YF, 260' x 48' | "K. S. Adams" Rig 40 | | Sold to be converted to pipe laying barge |
| Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Company | "J. W. Bates" | | Persian Gulf |
| Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Company | "George M. Reading | 71' | Drilling in Block 120, Vermilion Area for CATC |
| Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Company | "J. C. Craig" | | Drilling in Block 208 Eugene Island Area for CATC |
| Reading & Bates Offshore Drilling Company | "Clayton G. Dorn" | | Drilling in Block 208, Eugene Island Area for CATC |
| Southeastern Drilling Corp. Converted YF | Rig 12 Barge 9 | | Shut down, Industrial Canal, New Orleans |
| Zapata Off-Shore Company Floating drill barge | "Nola No. 1" | | Drilling in Block 84, W. Delta Area |

## Self-Contained Platforms

| COMPANY | DESCRIPTION | YEAR BUILT | LOCATION | WATER DEPTH |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| CATC Group | 110' x 146' | 1956 | Block 45, West Delta | 50' |
| CATC Group | 110' x 146' | 1957 | Block 47, Grand Isle | 88' |
| Gulf Marine Drilling, Inc. Rig #2 | | | Bayou Bouef, awaiting location | |
| Gulf Oil Corporation | 40' x 100' | 1957 | Rig Stacked at Morgan City, La. | |
| Humble Oil & Refg. Co. Rig #50 | 78' x 200' | 1956 | Block 16 Field, "L" Platform, Grand Isle Area | 50' |
| Humble Oil & Refg. Co. Rig #54 | | 1958 | "Q" Platform, West Delta Block 30 field | |
| Mecom Petroleums | 82' x 193' | 1948 | Rig removed from platform | 34' |
| Phillips Petroleum Co. | 85' x 140' | 1955 | Block 184, Eugene Island Area, vacated, platform remains | 84' |
| Phillips Petroleum Co. | 88'9" x 140' | 1955 | Block 129-A, Eugene Island Area, platform inactive | 52' |
| Phillips Petroleum Co. | 88'9" x 140' | 1956 | Block 172, Eugene Island Area, vacated platform | 77' |
| Phillips Petroleum Co. | 88'9" x 140' | 1956 | Block 191, Eugene Island Area, platform inactive | 81' |
| Phillips Petroleum Co. | 88'9" x 140' | 1957 | Block 129, Eugene Island Area, platform inactive | 57' |
| Pure Oil Company Converted LST | 328' x 50' | 1958 | Orange, Texas | |
| Pure Oil Company | 52' x 106 with 51' x 82' pipe rack | 1957 | Well completed, rig removed | 72' |
| Shell Oil Company | 55' x 110' | 1958 | Block 176, Eugene Island Area, Platform inactive | 86' |
| Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. | 118' x 142' | 1957 | Block 175, Eugene Island area (wells shut in) | 85' |
| Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. | 118' x 142' | | In storage at McDermott Bayou Bouef yard | |
| Sinclair Oil & Gas Co. | 80' x 180' | 1955 | Block 15, South Timbailer Area, Platform on Production | 7' |
| The Superior Oil Co. | 96' x 225' | 1958 | Drilling B-3, Block 76, Vermilion Area | |
| Union Oil Co. of California | | | B-1, Block 76, Vermilion Area, Southeastern Drilling Corp., Rig 7 | |

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# Use of Continuous Seismic Profiler In Offshore Exploration And Engineering

By C. B. OFFICER, President, and J. H. WEBER, Geophysicist
Marine Geophysical Services Company
Houston, Texas

The Continuous Seismic Profiler (Sparker) was developed for scientific and academic purposes at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution by J. B. Hersey and S. T. Knott. Further developments were contributed by W. C. Beckmann and others at Lamont Geological Observatory. It has been licensed exclusively for commercial work to Marine Geophysical Services Co., Houston, Texas.

For the past year this device has been acclimated with a high degree of success to the various problems encountered in marine engineering and petroleum exploration.

Its operation is similar to that of an echo sounder (fathometer) in that it is a continuous recording device. The big difference is the sound source and consequently the amount of penetration obtained. Whereas an echo sounder emits a high frequency "ping", the Sparker emits a much louder and lower frequency "bang". This "bang" is initiated by a 12,000 volt spark, discharged in the water. The sound spectrum of this discharge is similar to that of a small blasting cap, both in total energy and in frequency distribution.

This spark is produced by the use of a large transformer, rectifier tube, and condensers. The condensers are charged and then discharged by a triggering mechanism through the electrode gap into the water.

**Operation . . .** The receiving-recording unit consists of a signal detector (hydrophone) towed astern of the boat. From the hydrophone, the signals received go to a preamplifier, band pass filter, a recorder amplifier and finally to a high speed, high resolution facsimile recorder. The facsimile recorder transcribes the signals onto a sensitized paper and forms the record.

The entire equipment is essentially portable, weighing approximately 800 pounds. No special handling equipment is necessary, and the only requisite for the survey boat is that it be seaworthy for the particular area of operation. The survey crew consists of only two men. The equipment can be installed on the survey boat and be ready for operation in less than three hours.

**Primary uses . . .** There have been two primary uses for the Sparker: 1) It may be used to delineate subsurface structures related to petroleum

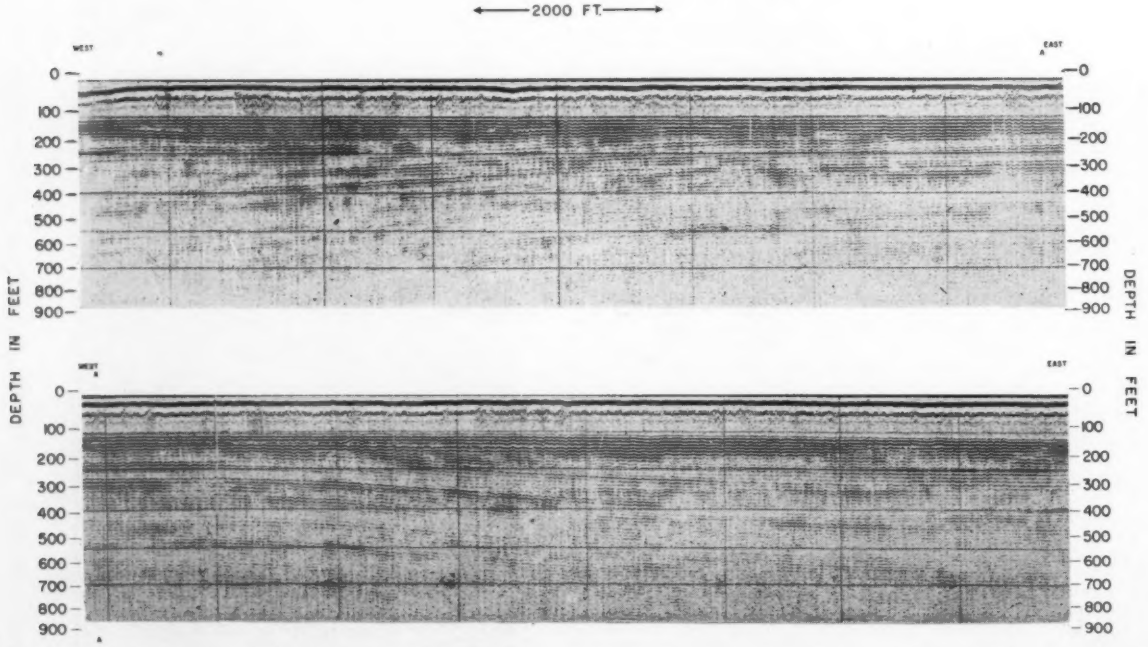


**FIGURE 1—Sparker profile across a broad anticline in the Persian Gulf. The two records overlap at Section A.**

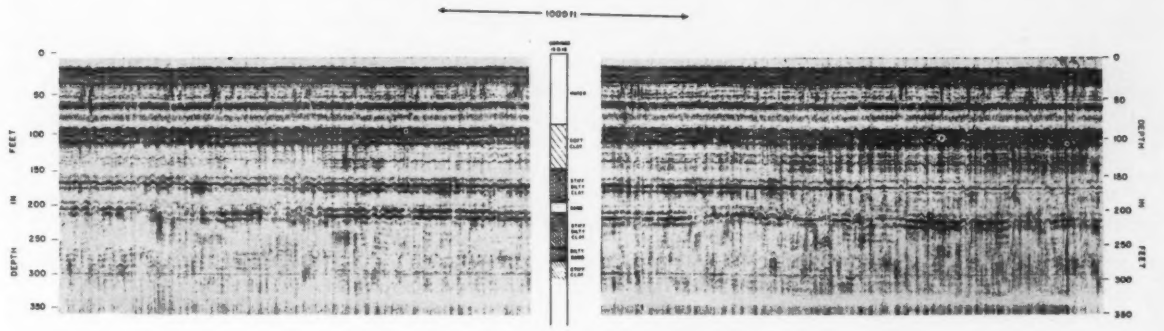

**FIGURE 2—Survey and borings at Eugene Island Block 176, off the coast of Louisiana.**

accumulations. It has been used for this purpose to date in several different areas including offshore Texas, Louisiana, California and Alaska in the U. S.; offshore British Columbia and in Lake Erie in Canada; off the west coast of South America; off the west coast of Africa; offshore Japan; and in the Persian Gulf. 2) It may be used to solve many marine engineering problems. Foundation studies for drilling platforms, pipe lines, bridges, dams, piers, tunnels, breakwaters and channel excavations are examples of its uses in this field. A number of such surveys have been made along the east and Gulf coasts of the U. S. and in eastern Canada and in the Persian Gulf and the English Channel. The English Channel survey was done in collaboration with Alpine Geophysical Associates, a group of people from Lamont Geological Observatory. This survey, which is presently underway, is for the purpose of investigating and determining the subsurface geologic conditions beneath the area being considered for the proposed channel tunnel to connect England and France.

Surveys in both these categories can be done quickly and easily. For petroleum exploration purposes, maximum depth of penetration is usually the most important consideration. Such depths are of the order of 600-1000 feet beneath the bottom. For foundation purposes greater detail in the upper 100 to 200 feet of material beneath the bottom is usually more important. In either case the record produced is essentially a geological cross section beneath the survey ship's track. The horizontal scale is essentially a horizontal distance scale and the vertical scale a vertical travel time (depth) scale.

**Examples . . . Figure 1** is an example of a record taken for petroleum exploration purposes. **Figures 2** and **3** are examples of records taken for marine engineering purposes. **Figure 1** is a reproduction of a record taken in the Persian Gulf. It shows a characteristic Persian Gulf structure of a rather broad, gentle anticline. The record has been cut for presentation, the left hand end of the lower record attaching to the right hand end of the upper record.

**Figure 2** is a record adjacent to a soil boring at Eugene Island Block 176, offshort Louisiana. The horizontal coordinate is horizontal distance and the vertical coordinate, vertical depth. Note the direct arrival at 12 feet, the bottom reflection at 80 feet, and the two strong subbottom reflections at 160 feet and 200 feet respectively. The first subbottom reflection correlates with the discontinuity between the soft clay and the stiff silty clay. The second subbottom reflection correlates with the sand lens within the stiff silty clay. In addition there is a weak third subbottom reflection at 270 feet, which correlates with the silty sand lens. The first subbottom reflection rises gradually from right to left. The second and third subbottom reflections also rise from right to left, but more irregularly. (The tops of the reflections should be read to correlate with the boring depths; the ripple on each reflection is due to the ocean surface waves at the time of the survey.

**Lake Erie . . . Figure 3** is a Sparker record from Lake Erie. Note the direct arrival at 8 feet, the bottom reflection at 36 feet, and the basement reflection at 70 to 80 feet. The material between the lake bottom and the basement is glacial drift, a poorly sorted, generally coarse grained sediment. The basement in this area is the Detroit River Limestone of Devonian Age.

The Sparker has proven to be a useful new tool for marine exploration and engineering. It offers both a separate and unique method of continuous surveying and a supplement to conventional surveying techniques.

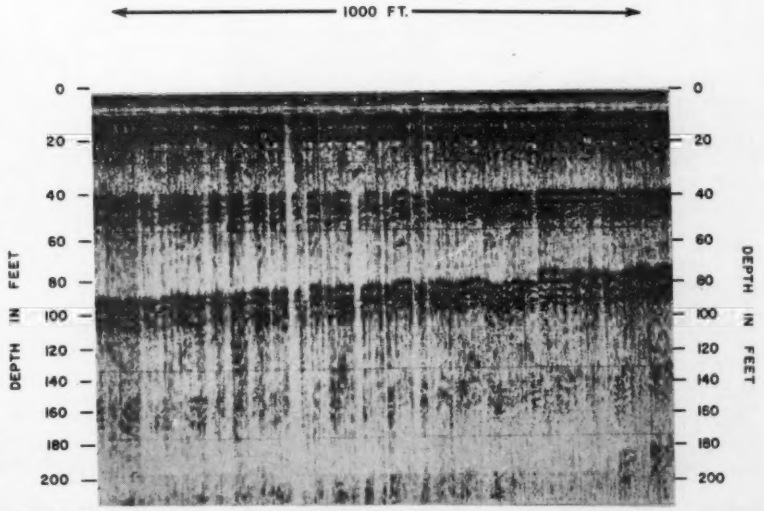


**FIGURE 3—Survey on Lake Erie near Port Dover, Ontario, Canada.**

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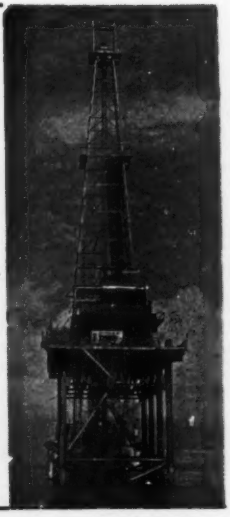

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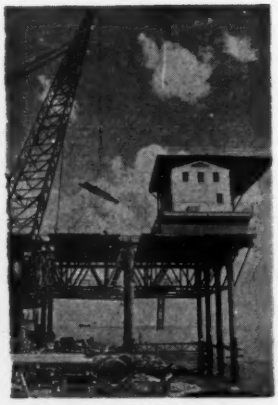

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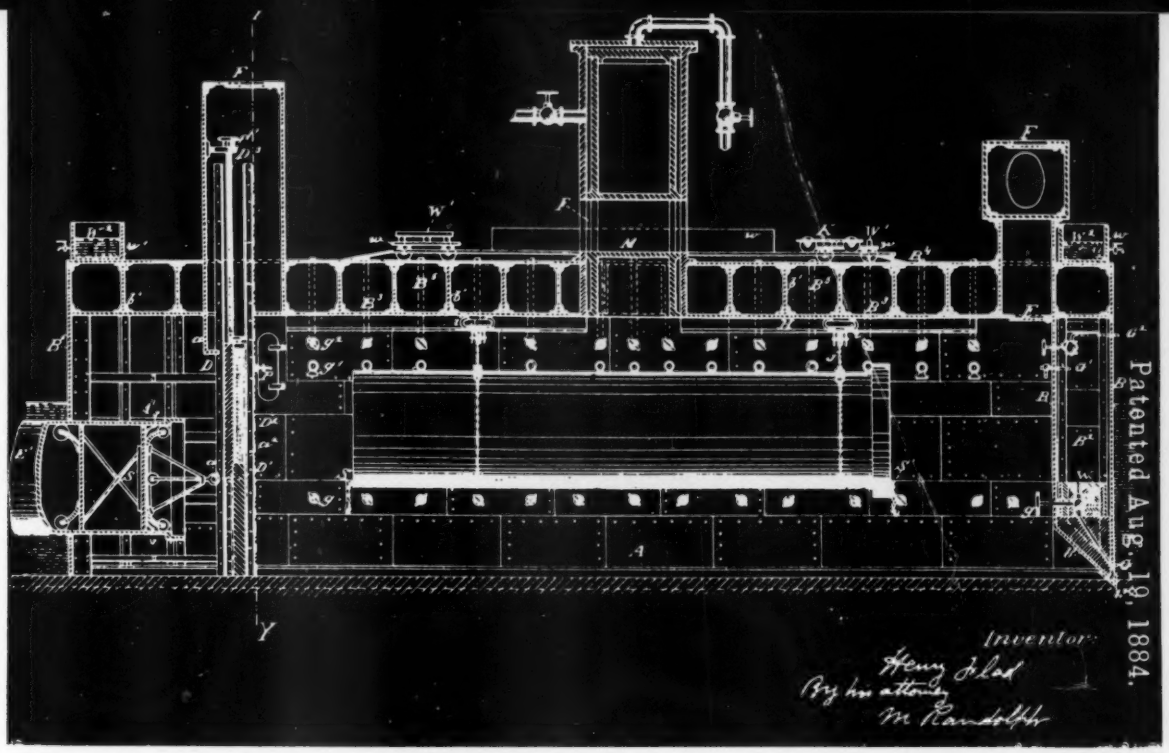


**FLAD'S CAISSON is shown laying a pipeline underwater with a section of pipe suspended from the ceiling by chains attached to sheaves. Notice the special shield S, which moves inside the pipe to prevent loss of compressed air from the chamber.**

**Patent No. 303,830**

# Portable Underwater Caisson

**This 19th century design was for a pressurized caission that would lay pipelines under the sea like a submarine**

The idea of carrying on underwater pipeline work through an evacuated caisson dates back to at least 1884.

For it was on this date that a patent was issued to Henry Flad of St. Louis, Missouri, for a "Portable Caisson for Use in Building Subaqueous Structures."

Flad described the invention as a portable caisson with a central chamber at the bottom from which the water was expelled by compressed air. In this chamber, operations were carried on, and the caisson was constructed so that it could be readily moved to another section as in the case of submarine pipeline operations.

**Construction** . . . The interior of the caisson is divided into two chambers by a transverse partition and sliding doors or gates. These doors may be closed or opened to form either two compartments or one larger space, but they must be air tight and able to move inside their ways without loss of air pressure.

Sides and stationary end of the working compartment are formed of inner and outer walls, leaving a chamber between, which is in turn subdivided into smaller compartments by transverse partitions. The compartments are decked over by ceiling plates.

If the caisson is a large one, a second deck or cover may be needed about two feet above the first. The chambers have bottoms which slope downward away from the inside wall forming chisel shaped cutting edges a little outside the exterior wall.

Walls, partitions and roofing are made of sheet metal and secured in place by I-beams.

At the top of the submarine cais-

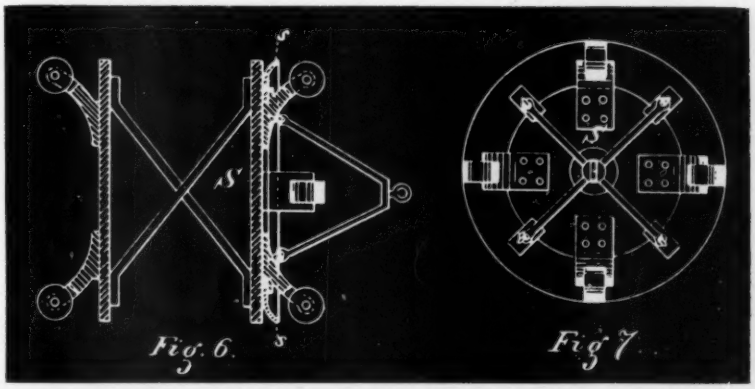


**FIG. 6: Longitudinal view of the special shield for closing a pipe while it is being laid. FIG. 7:Front view of the same device.**

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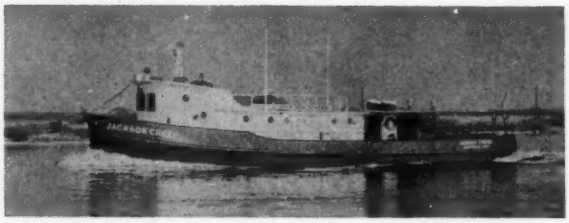

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son, manholes with airlocks permit workmen to enter and materials to be brought in. Materials are brought into the chamber by a dumb-waiter and lifted by differential pulleys onto a hook in whatever position required.

This supporting arrangement for pipe or other material during construction is formed in the following manner: Longitudinal beams suspended from the ceiling provide ways on which a cross bar equipped with rollers or sheaves moves along on the beams carrying the pipe joint from one end of the chamber to the other.

**Submerging** . . . Floated to location, the caisson is submerged by opening the valves which can be seen in the drawing just above and below the suspended section of pipe. Upper chambers may also be flooded. It is necessary to place enough weight upon the chamber to counteract buoyancy force of the compressed air which is forced into the working chamber once the caisson has settled securely upon the bottom.

An air compressor forces air into this central chamber until the water is expelled and workmen can enter. In lowering the apparatus, care must be taken to have the outer wall embrace the end of the pipe.

In the outer chamber, workmen pack sand bags and other material around the opening between the section of pipe and the edges of the opening until the outward flow of air stops and the chamber is filled with air.

**Laying pipelines** . . . When the caisson is used for laying pipe, the open end of the pipe must be stopped up with a shield or pipe stopper shown in Figs 6 and 7, to prevent air escaping from the chamber through the pipe.

This shield is made up of two parallel disks connected by braces. The disks are smaller than the pipe so that they may be drawn inside it by a traction chain. On the front face of the outer disk there is attached flexible material which fits snugly against the pipe to prevent escape of air.

Each time a new joint of pipe is added to the string, the shield is drawn forward toward the outer end of the pipe by a chain which has been previously run through the pipe and attached to the outer edge of the shield by a catch.

Perhaps Flad's idea sounded a little far fetched in his day, but grant it the ingenuity of modern jet-age oil engineers and who knows what the results might be.

**Major discovery**

# Pauley Pan American Reports Strike In Gulf Of Campeche

### Odeco's EL DORADO drills Mexico test in 43-ft. of water one mile offshore from State of Tobasco

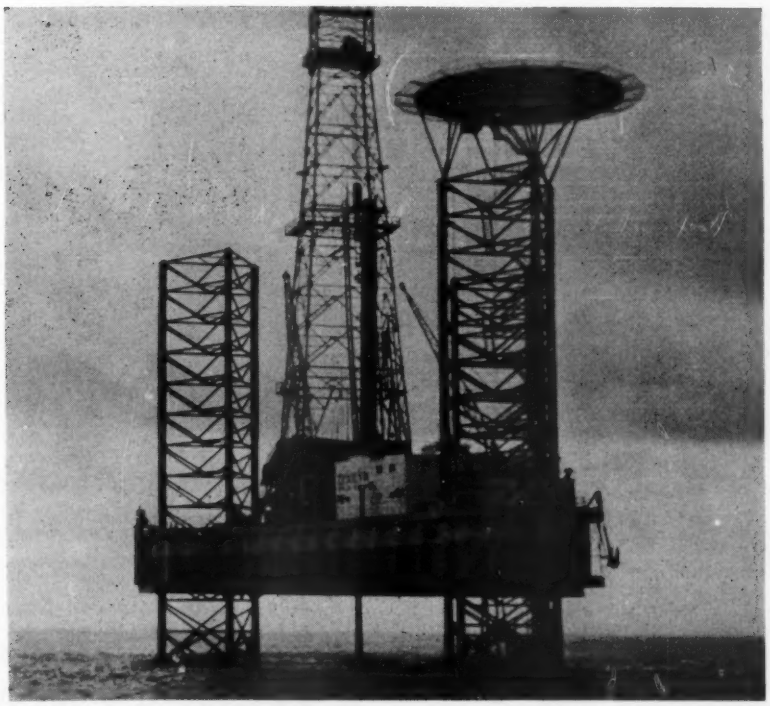
Discovery of a major Mexican offshore oil field has been reported by Pauley Pan American Petroleum Co.

The well, drilled by Ocean Drilling & Exploration Company's mammoth mobile platform El Dorado, is in 43-ft. of water about one mile off the coast of Tobasco in the Gulf of Campeche.

Odeco, which has been active in the area for some time, has drilled a total of nine holes in the Gulf of Campeche—five of them producers, and four dusters. The New Orleans concern had carried an interest in previous wells, but drilled the latest on a contract basis.

The 239 Santa Anna reached a total depth of 10,000-ft., encountering several Miocene sands below 7,000-ft. One of the upper zones is reported to have tested at the rate of 1,680 bpd of 38-gravity oil, but Pauley Pan American released little other information about the well.

The company holds a concession in the Gulf of Campeche bordering on the states of Veracruz and Tabasco.



**DIXILYN DRILLING CORPORATION'S JUILE ANN sits on location 50 miles off the Louisiana coast, in Vermilion Block 164. The rig is sinking its second contract well for Shell in 100 feet of water, the deepest water in which Shell has drilled in the Gulf of Mexico.**

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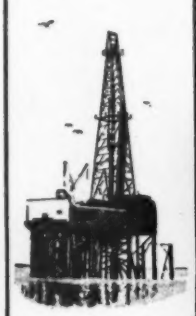

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## Zapata Completes Second Gas Well In Block 86 Field

Zapata Off-Shore Company—Felmont Oil Corp., et al, have completed Well No. 3, State Lease 1446 (OCS 0172), Vermilion area, at 10,800-ft. in the Block 86 field sand. The well yielded 3.497 mcf per day of gas with 99.71 bpd of 48.8 distillate on a 12/64-in. choke.

Zapata Off-Shore Company is the operator, and is now building facilities to tie into Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company's gathering system. This is Zapata's second producing well in the Block 86 field.


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## Oil Man's Calendar

**SEPTEMBER**

10 Oil Trades Association of New York, Westchester Country Club, Rye

16-18 National Petroleum Association, annual meeting, Traymore Hotel, Atlantic City

23-24 Western Petroleum Refiners Assn., Rocky Mountain regional technical-industrial relations meeting, Henning Hotel, Casper, Wyo.

27-29 National Assn. of Oil Equipment Jobbers, annual convention and trade show, Hotel Leamington, Minneapolis

27-30 API, Executive Committee of Board of Directors, Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

**OCTOBER**

4-7 Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME, 34th annual fall meeting, Dallas, site unreported

5-7 American Gas Association, convention, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago

7-8 Western Petroleum Refiners Assn., 4th annual waste disposal and pollution conference, Broadview Hotel, Wichita

8-9 California Natural Gasoline Assn., 34th annual fall meeting, Huntington-Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena

11-15 ASTM Committee D-2, meeting, Sheraton-Palace Hotel, San Francisco

12-13 Petroleum Packaging Committee, meeting, Port Arthur, Texas, site unreported

16 Natural Gasoline Assn. of America, southern regional meeting, Carlton Hotel, Tyler, Texas

20-22 American Standards Assn., 10th national conference on standards, Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit

22-23 Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME, Los Angeles Basin section, fall meeting, Huntington-Sheraton Hotel, Pasadena

26-27 IPAA annual meeting, Statler-Hilton Hotel, Dallas

28-29 Western Petroleum Refiners Assn., annual session on refining technology, Rufus Garrett Hotel, El Dorado, Ark.

28-30 Society of Automotive Engineers, national fuels and lubricants meeting, La Salle Hotel, Chicago

28-30 AAPG, Mid-Continent regional meeting, Broadview Hotel, Wichita

**NOVEMBER**

4-6 Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Assn., 14th annual convention, Cosmopolitan Hotel, Denver

9-11 API, 39th Annual Meeting, Conrad Hilton, Palmer House, and Congress hotels, Chicago

9-12 Society of Exploration Geophysicists, 29th annual international meeting, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles

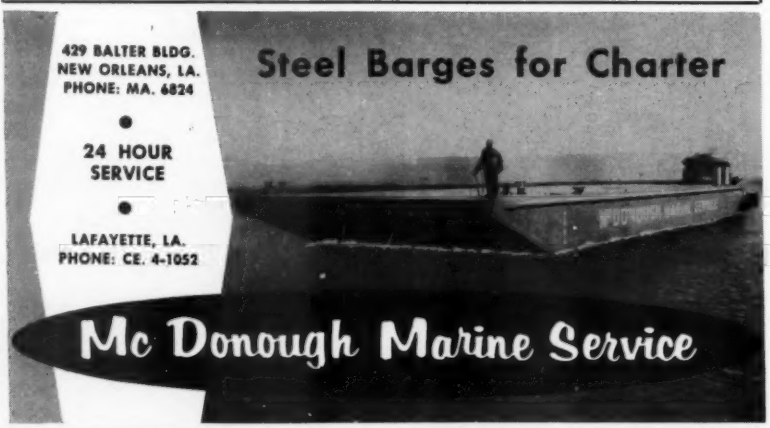
10-11 API Board of Directors, meeting, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago

11 API, Executive Committee of Board of Directors, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago

20 Natural Gasoline Assn. of America, Panhandle-Plains regional meeting, Herring Hotel, Amarillo

**DECEMBER**

3-5 Interstate Oil Compact Commission, annual meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia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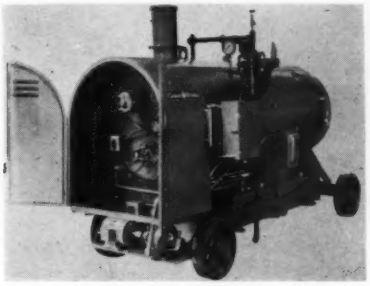
# Portable Boiler For Steam Cleaning



The answer to economical steam cleaning or steam thawing is found in a new compact portable boiler. The units measure 15-ft. long, 4-ft. wide and 5½-ft. high, and are available in 40 and 50 hp sizes. Weight is about 5,000 lbs. each. The specially constructed frame with rubber wheels provides ease of mobility.

The 40 hp unit has an output of 1,380 lbs. of steam an hour at 212 degrees. The 50 hp boiler delivers 1,725 lbs. of steam an hour at 212 degrees.

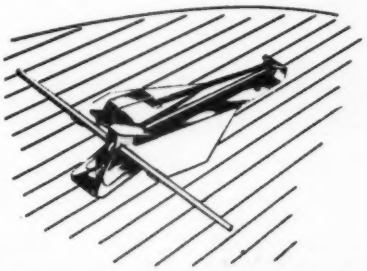
Each unit is equipped with a water make-up tank which holds enough water for an hour's operation. A simple hose connection from a local water supply will normally provide water at 20 to 50 lbs. pressure for continuous and automatic operation.

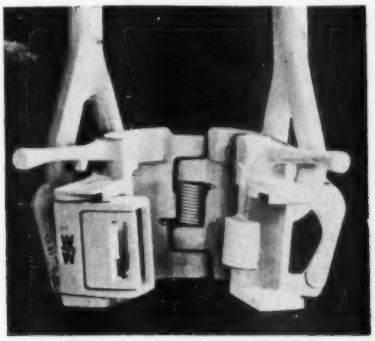
For further information write **Cleaver-Brooks Co., 326 E. Keefe Avenue, Milwaukee 12, Wisconsin.**

# Any Position Okay For Anchor Holder

A new type of anchor holder was introduced recently by Danforth Anchors. Fabricated entirely of 18-8 stainless steel, the anchor holder called "Stowaway" is corrosion and rustproof.

Unlike other holding devices, the "Stowaway" can be mounted in any position, horizontally, vertically or even overhead if desired. It holds the anchor securely without lashings no matter how it is mounted. For further information write **Danforth Anchors, 2147 Alston Way, Berkley 4, California.**





## New Elevators Have Swept Forward Arms

Web Wilson Oil Tools, Inc. of Los Angeles has produced a line of center latch elevators with greater compactness of design due to swept forward link arms.

At the same time, the design allows more clearance for installing links. A slanted pin provides the new elevator with a natural tendency to close when under load. This tendency amounts to several tons of force, depending upon the elevator load.

Another feature of the Champion elevators is a strong coil spring, located at the hinge pin, that opens the elevator and forces it away from the pipe when the safety latch is released. For further information write **Web Wilson Oil Tools, Inc., P. O. Box 72096, Los Angeles 2, California,**

## Rust Remover Shows When Activity Stops

A new rust and scale remover has been developed which actually indicates when its solvent power for rust and scale is depleted.

The new product called KARYSOL indicates its loss of activity by a sharp color change (from blue to red) when the solution is no longer capable of dissolving scale and rust.

KARYSOL can be used for deplugging wells plugged by iron or calcium deposits, for pickling iron and steel parts and in electrolytic polishing baths. It is also a rapid solvent for "milk stone," pipe scale, heavy rust, as well as encrustations and deposits in boilers, reactors, storage tanks and vats. It dissolves readily in hot or cold water. For further information write **Guardian Chemical Corporation, 38-15 30th Street, Long Island 1, N. Y.**

## API Adopts Revised Viscosity Standards

The American Petroleum Institute has discontinued its three viscosity standards—Alpha, Betta and Gamma.

Seven new oil standards for viscometer calibration have been furnished by the American Society for Testing Materials, Cannon Instrument Company, State College, Pennsylvania.

The 1958 versions of ASTM Tentative Method D, 445 Kinematic Viscosity, and Standard Method D88, Saybolt Viscosity will refer to the new series.

## BJ Service Issues New Bulletin

A comprehensive bulletin just published by BJ Service reviews each acid treating solution, chemical blocking agent and auxiliary chemical service offered by BJ for well stimulation. Includes a discussion of the composition, purpose and action of each chemical formulation, together with charts and a glossary of terms used in chemical well-stimulation work. Write **BJ Service, Inc., 6505 Paramount Blvd., Long Beach 5, California, and ask for Chemical Service from BJ.**

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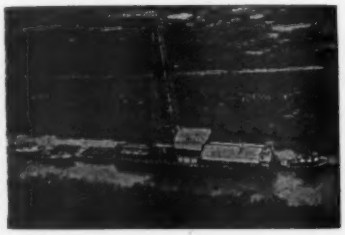

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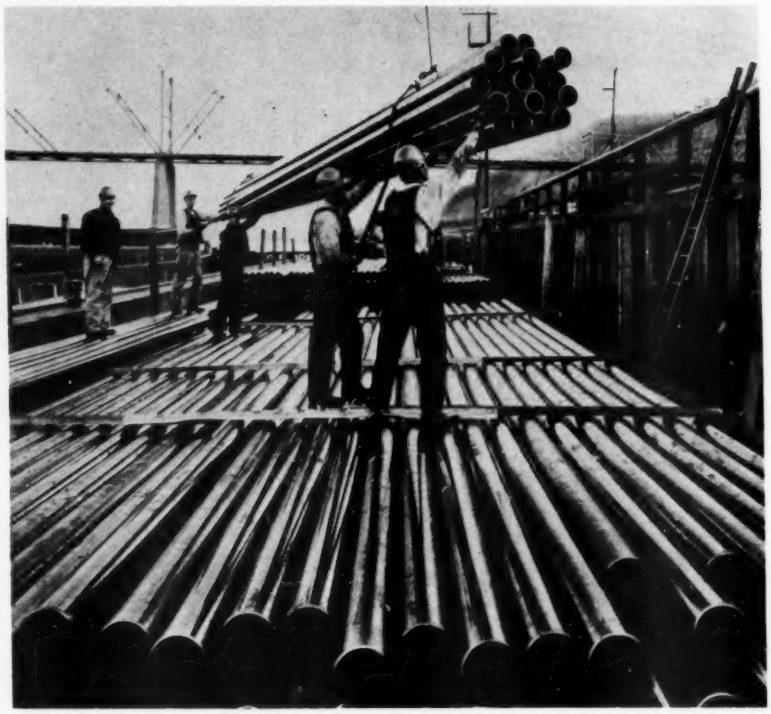
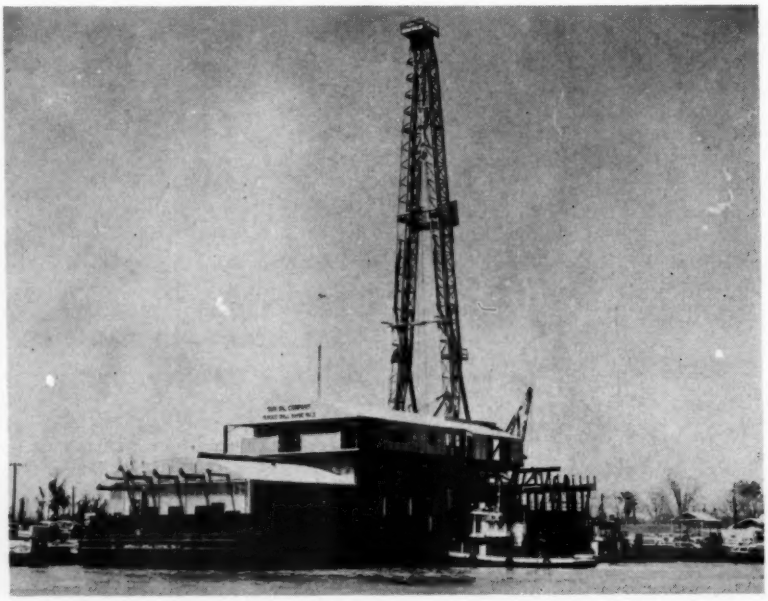
# News In Pictures....



**Pipe for an unusual project** is loaded aboard barges. Two sizes of this alloy line pipe—6-in. O.D. and 7-5/8-in. O.D.—will be used by Freeport Sulphur Company to lay a 7-mile sulphur pipeline into the Gulf of Mexico. Three concentric pipes **(See Offshore, May, p. 40)** will be used to transport the molten sulphur from an offshore mine to the Louisiana coast.



**Sunoco Drill Barge No. 3,** built by Avondale Marine Ways of New Orleans, was delivered recently to Sun Oil Company. The slotted hull barge measures 200-ft. by 54-ft. by 14-ft. 6-in., and is equipped with an Ideco "2500" diesel-electric rig, 143-ft. mast capable of racking 16,200-ft. of 4½-in. drill pipe or 25,500-ft. of 3½-in. pipe, and a closed circuit television system between the rig floor and engine room.

# SERVICE PERSONALITIES . . In The NEWS

## Grant Oil Tools Announces Election Of Vice President

Election of Robert E. Masters as a vice president of Grant Oil Tool Company has been announced. Masters is general manager of the MacClatchie Division, manufacturers of mud pump valves, pistons, Spiro pipe wipers, quick-change cement heads, quick-unions and other oil field equipment.

Masters joined MacClatchie in 1954 as assistant manager and became manager in 1957. He is a graduate of Stanford University and was a Navy lieutenant in the Korean War.

## New General Sales Manager Named by Edwin H. Fitler

The Edwin H. Fitler Company has announced the appointment of J. J. Greene as general sales manager.

Greene joined the company on December 1, 1957, to assist George S. Prechtel, general sales manager, who has just returned to the office recuperating from a serious illness. Previously, Greene had been with the Columbia Rope Company since 1941, serving most of the time in the sales division.

Prechtel, who has fully recovered from his previous illness, retired as general sales manager December 31, 1958, to become a consultant for the company.

## Kearney Named Sales Manager Of Tex-Tube Replacing Beall

R. W. Kearney has been named manager of sales for Tex-Tube, Inc., replacing William S. Beall who has moved up to vice president.

Kearney, who has been with Tex-Tube since 1952, had previous experience with Magnolia Petroleum Company and with oil production specialty companies.

His oil field career was interrupted by both World War II and the Korean War during which he served as Captain in the Air Force. He will continue to visit New York, Chicago and the Mid-Continent area from his home office in Houston.

## Helms Takes High Position With Baash-Ross Division

Hammond A. Helms of Dallas has been elected vice president and general manager of the Baash-Ross Division of Joy Manufacturing Company.

He succeeds G. D. Johnson, who continues as a consultant to the company.

Helms, who has spent 17 years in the oil field equipment manufacturing industry, comes to Joy from Chance Vought Aircraft, Inc., Dallas, where he was controller and a member of the executive committee.

Helms received a B. S. degree in engineering administration from Texas A & M College in 1939. He was born in Fort Worth.

## Byron Jackson Tools To Build European Plant

A new manufacturing plant has been established in the Netherlands by Byron Jackson Tools, Inc., a subsidiary of Borg-Warner Corporation.

Earl M. Rees, formerly export sales manager for BJ Oil Tools, has been named managing director of the new Netherlands based firm and will also serve as European sales manager for Byron Jackson Tools, Inc. G. E. Mullinix will head engineering operations for the subsidiary.

The new company, known as Byron Jackson N.V., will construct a modern manufacturing plan at Etten en Leur, North Brabant Province in South Holland.

## New York Investment Firm Buys Avondale Marine Ways

A New York investment company, Ogden Corporation, has acquired Avondale Marine Ways of New Orleans.

Avondale, which has constructed a large number of drilling barges and other offshore vessels, will not experience any changes in policy or personnel as a result of the transaction.

## Cleaver-Brooks Completes Major Sales Realignment

Thomas B. Mansfield and Richard D. Pennstrom have been named regional managers for Cleaver-Brooks Company.

It was announced that the appointments complete a program of selecting and training regional managers to administer the sale of the firm's packaged boiler products.

Mansfield, who has been assigned the midwest division, joined Cleaver-Brooks with 12 years over-all experience with another major boiler manufacturer.

Pennstrom has been assigned the northwestern segment. He was formerly associated with a control manufacturer.

# Texas Marine & Industrial Supply Company Announces Food Division

Texas Marine and Industrial Supply Company has announced the opening of a food division. The division will include dry stores, meats, dairy products, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables—everything used by vessels docking at Houston.

The new department will be managed by John Schuhmacher, who has been in the food business twenty years. Ray Bankston will serve as his assistant.

SCHUHMACHER

BANKSTON

Addition of a food division and recent addition of a marine electrical department, as well as the new distributorship for C-O-TWO Pyrene fire fighting equipment, makes Texas Marine and Industrial Supply a one-stop station for marine supplies —the largest in the southwest.

The company is located at 8106 Harrisburg Boulevard in Houston.

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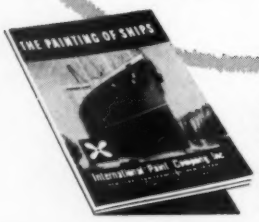


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# The Slush Pit . . .

She stepped out of the bathtub and onto the scales. Hubby walked past the door and saw what she was doing. He called back, "How many pounds this morning, honey?"

Without turning, she replied, "Fifty, and don't leave the tongs on the porch."

---

Stay-at-home wife: "Darling, how thoughtful. The hotel where you stayed during the convention sent me a blue nightgown."

---

A guest at a country club got mixed up on which shower room to use after his golf game. He was in the midst of his shower when three women entered to use the powder room. With quick thinking, he covered his head with his towel, so that the women couldn't recognize him later, and rushed dripping wet out of the ladie's room and down the hall into the men's shower room.

"Good heavens!" said one of the women. "Thank goodness that wasn't my husband."

"Or mine," said the second.

"It wasn't even a member of the club," said the third absently.

---

Then there was the sexy wife of a busy husband who recently won a divorce, charging her husband with lack of attentiveness. "If anything ever happened to me," the stacked missus claimed, "my husband wouldn't even be able to identify the body."

---

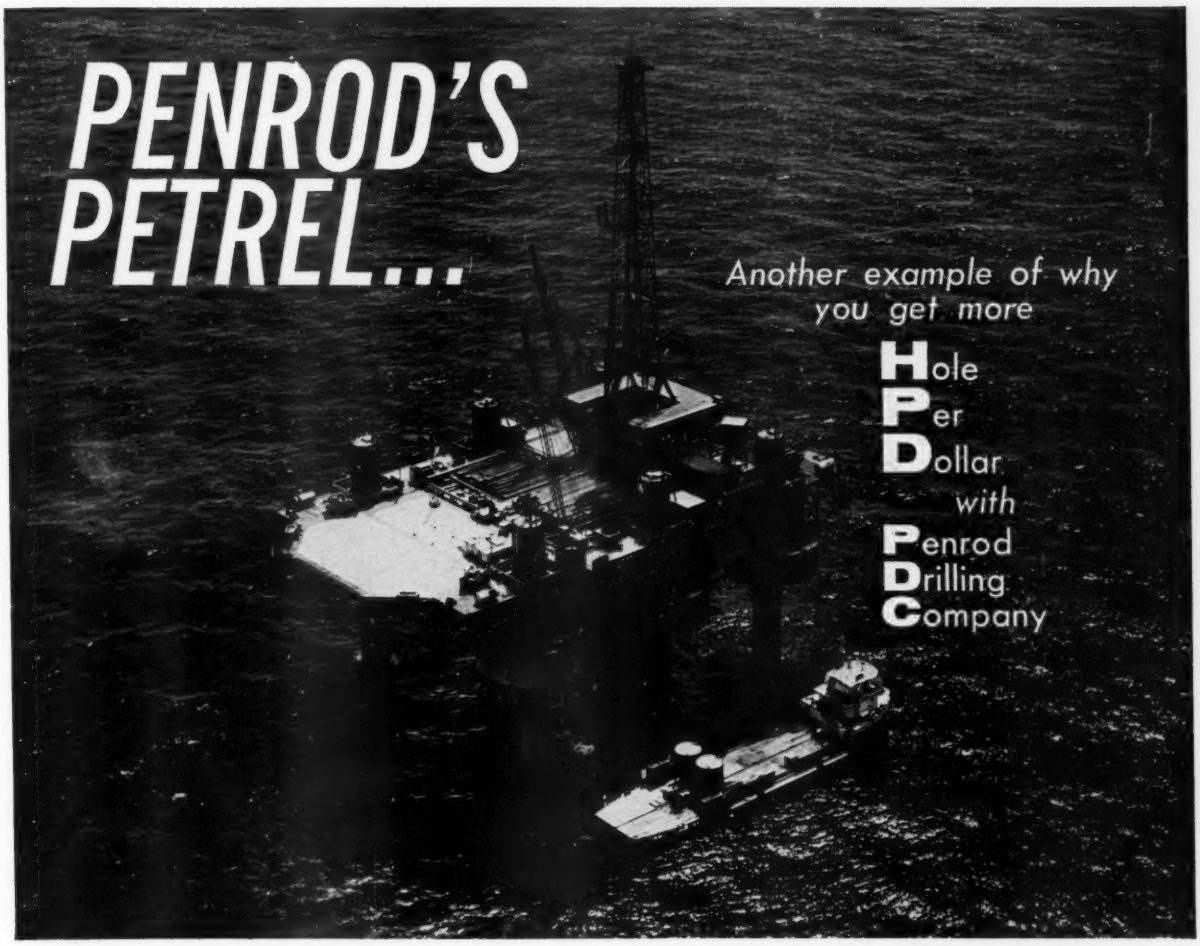
Sign on a New Orleans bar: "Quiet. Hangover under construction."

---

A fellow who came into a dental office for a tooth extraction was so frightened that the dentist sympathetically offered him a shot of whiskey. Then the fellow asked for another shot and gulped it down. The dentist then asked kindly: "There, young fellow. Do you feel any braver? Got your courage back?"

"Yeah," snarled the man, "and brother, I'd like to see anybody touch my teeth."

**"Let me see some oil paintings! I'm an offshore oil man!"**

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